

**RESTAURATEURS  
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Trouble looming over VAT on fuel

## Labour woos Europe with honeyed talk

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE new Government yesterday launched a charm offensive towards the European Union, promising a fresh start to its partners in Brussels but also warning them that Britain would not cede control of its frontiers or the national veto in key areas.

Doug Henderson, the Minister for Europe, brought Tony Blair's goodwill message to a Brussels treaty negotiation. He also formally outlined Britain's intention to sign the social chapter and implement it within weeks.

The move was widely welcomed, but potential trouble loomed for Labour with the announcement that the European Commission is planning new employment legislation as part of the social chapter. The Commission also objected to Labour's plan to cut VAT on heating fuel to 5 per cent.

European officials sat in silence verging on disbelief as they heard a British minister utter the kind of language that the Union has not heard from London since John Major proclaimed Britain's place in the "heart of Europe" in 1990. It was time to "draw a line under the recent past", Mr Henderson said.

"We want to work with you as colleagues in a shared enterprise. Not using the language of opponents. Europe, for the new British Government is an opportunity, not a threat."

Reflecting the delight over the departure of the Conservative team, a senior German official said "the change in British tone was 'a breath of oxygen in a stale room, almost too good to be true'."

However, echoing the campaign promises made by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secre-



*"The good news is soon  
we'll have to do this for  
only 48 hours a week"*

when it outlined new laws under preparation. Such laws are mainly passed by majority voting.

The first new legislation will shift the burden of proof in sex discrimination. As a result, employers will share with the employee the requirement to prove that discrimination did or did not take place. Some British firms fear this may mean that employers must prove that they are not guilty of discrimination rather than leaving it to the worker to provide evidence that they were unfairly treated.

Legislation is also being drafted to offer part-time workers protection comparable to that of full-time employees. Some British employers claim this will hamper their efforts to compete in the global market. The Commission is also talking to the employers' federations and unions about new measures to tackle sexual harassment in the workplace.

Padraig Flynn, the European Commissioner for Social Affairs, is pressing for works councils to be extended beyond big international companies to cover all firms employing more than a handful of workers.

The Commission said Labour's pledge to cut VAT on fuel seemed to be counter to the whole spirit of the EU's drive to harmonise VAT. Britain had been given dispensation to keep rates lower on a temporary basis, but it was expected to bring the rate up at least to the minimum of 15 per cent. The spokeswoman for Mario Monti, the taxation commissioner, said that the

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Nicholas and Kathryn taking possessions out to a removal van yesterday

## Blair necessities of family life go to Downing Street

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

AS THE Prime Minister put the finishing touches to his Government yesterday his wife and children moved into Downing Street.

Footballs, mountain bikes and a giant teddy bear were loaded into a van at the family home in Islington along with at least three dozen pairs of Cherrie's shoes and her husband's electric guitar and amplifier. The Prime Minister's London residence seems destined to be a rather noisier place than it has been for many years.

Mr Blair set off for Downing Street at 9am yesterday in the prime ministerial Daimler, leaving his family to it. A van arrived with a team of friends to help Mrs Blair but clearly the real foreman was nine-year-old Kathryn Blair.

A natural at smiling unprompted for the cameras, she skipped up and down outside the three-storey north London house supervising the loading. In went a kingsize wooden and steel bed with a brass head, armfuls of suits, dresses and shirts on hangers, stacks of blue crates and holdalls.

Kathryn and her brother Nicholas, staggered out carrying a crate between them. "Smile Nick," said one of the family friends. Later yester-

day Downing Street issued a statement to media editors saying that the Blairs were happy for their children to be photographed at public occasions and moving into their new home, but were anxious that they should otherwise be allowed privacy.

The sight of canvas shoe holders stacked with a prodigious number of women's shoes invited media onlookers to make the obvious comparisons with Imelda Marcos. A

clothes rail was set up inside the removal van to ensure that the suits and dresses remained wrinkle-free. The football gear, together with the guitar, teddy, bikes and two computers, had to wait for a second trip. In another possible Downing Street first a Manchester United duvet looked to be destined for one of the junior bedrooms.

With the first load ready

Mrs Blair, in blue tracksuit bottoms and anorak, jumped into a Montego with the children and helpers and followed the van to Downing Street where, after a swap with the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, they will live in No 11 while he occupies the attic flat at neighbouring No 10.

At Downing Street an even bigger media audience had gathered to watch the same possessions unpacked. But the van disappeared round the side of No 10 and attention had to turn to Humphrey, the Downing Street cat, who has seen a couple of prime ministers come and go and, when not snoozing, made a point of ignoring the whole kerfuffle by busily washing.

Mr Blair is expected to spend some of his 44th birthday today with his family as they settle into their new

Continued on page 2, col 6



New ties: Tony Blair's neckwear is transferred

## Banks bowled over by new job

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

TONY BANKS, one of the most humorous and boisterous voices in the Commons, has been brought onto the Government front bench as Minister of Sport. The job offer even took him by

surprise.

Mr Banks, 54, is a left-winger with a quick and often earthy wit that has served him as well in the stands at his beloved Chelsea FC as on the back benches at Westminster. Like the committed fan that he is he has never been reticent about taking a break from bawling out the opposition to have a dig at his own side.

The news of Mr Banks's appointment leaked out



Banks: "gobsmacked"

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

AFTER spending much of the weekend basking in the hottest weather of the year, millions could wake up today to an inch of snow. Temperatures which had hovered around 80F (27C) on Friday could plunge to 48F (9C) today, and the cold spell is expected to last until the end of the week. If snow falls

in London it will be the third time in 50 years that the capital has seen a snowfall in May — the last being in 1955. "We have had very warm air blowing up from Spain and now we will have really cold air from the Arctic," said a spokesman at the London Weather Centre.

The cold front moved down through Scotland and northern England yesterday bringing heavy rain and

atrocious driving conditions. Winds gusting up to 45mph carried snow and freezing showers across much of Scotland. Temperatures dropped to about 38F (3C) in Shetland, Sutherland and the Hebrides. Near Aviemore more than an inch of snow fell and chairlifts at the ski centre froze, although there was not enough snow for skiing. In the Lake District, police warned people to stay off the hills after

a holiday weekend in which two died and 11 others needed hospital treatment.

In the south, forecasters warned of snowfalls on higher ground such as the Chilterns, the Cotswolds and the Downs.

"Winter has come back with a vengeance," said an AA spokesman.

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## The snows of May banish the heatwave of spring

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# Three boys feared drowned on coast



## Two still missing after rescuers find body of 11-year-old

By PAUL WILKINSON

THREE boys were feared dead last night after becoming trapped by the rapidly rising tide while exploring coastal marshes at the mouth of the Humber estuary. Rescuers found the body of Christopher Scott, 11, and hopes were fading for his friends, Nathan Sawyer, 9, and Ian Smye, who would have been 10 yesterday.

The search for the "inseparable" friends, from the Lincolnshire hamlet of North Coates, will resume this morning, but police said their chances of survival were slim. Detective Chief Inspector Paul Jones, of Lincolnshire Police, said: "The prospects are very grim. The longer the search goes on, the worse it gets."

The boys had spent Sunday among the isolated marshland round Horseshoe Point, four miles south of Cleethorpes. Mr Jones said: "I think they had gone out there to play, lost track of the time and didn't recognise when the tide was coming in. It rushes in like an express train and within 10 to 15 minutes the boys could have found themselves stranded on a small island. It is absolutely lethal."

"A lot of children of that age are not aware of the dangers of going down there because their brothers and sisters have always been there in the past. To them it is like an adventure playground."

Ian's father, Chris Smye, who lives with his wife, Andrea, and their three other

children, Bronwyn, Kayleigh and Luke, in a farmhouse near the coast, said: "I've got no idea what made them go out there. It's a terrible, treacherous place."

At one stage during the search for the boys, three coastguards got into difficulty and had to be airlifted to safety. Local people know the area as treacherous, with mudflats and sandbanks cut by scores of rivulets that drain the flat Lincolnshire countryside into the sea. It disappears twice a day under a tide that can rise as much as 30ft. In spite of the danger, the area is a magnet for bored youngsters with a taste for adventure.

The three boys are thought to have been cut off on a ridge of sand called a wildback.

Valerie Scott, 50, who looked after her grandson Christopher with her husband James, 47, said: "I feel more for the other two parents. We've got Chris's body back. I'm sorry to say, but they haven't. We're just praying for a miracle that the two boys saw Chris drown and are too scared to come home. The three boys were inseparable and went everywhere together. It hasn't sunk in. I just keep thinking he is going to come walking through the door."

Christopher's body was found at 1am yesterday by an RAF rescue helicopter that had been brought in to assist 30 police and coastguards, who, with 150 local volunteers, had been searching since the alarm was raised on Sunday evening. The searchers also included RNLI inshore rescue teams and professionals from the International Rescue Service in Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

Mrs Scott said: "We used to warn them all the time about the dangers of going down there but lads are lads and they thought it was one big adventure."

The boys were last seen on the mudflats at about 1pm on Sunday. When Christopher failed to return by 6pm his grandfather, a food-process supervisor, went looking for them.

Mrs Scott said: "He looked at various places in the village but could not find them so went up to Horseshoe Point by chance and found the boys' bikes. Ian couldn't swim but Chris could, but when the tide comes in as quickly as it does, it doesn't matter how good a swimmer you are. I think they were out playing and got caught by the tide."



Nathan Sawyer: missing

Christopher Scott: dead

Iain Smye: missing

## Explosive rat blamed for cottage fire

By TIM JONES

COUNTRY life may be wilder than anyone thought. A couple have been told that a £60,000 blaze at their rented cottage could have been caused by an exploding rat.

The fire destroyed the thatched roof and bedrooms of the 400-year-old cottage in Puddledock, near Attleborough, Norfolk, obliging Roger Blinell and his wife Sylvia, both 53, to move into a caravan. Experts employed by the insurers believe that a rat crawled into the reed and straw thatch to die after eating poison containing phosphorous. As the animal decomposed, they say, the phosphorous burst into flames on exposure to air.

Yesterday Mrs Blinell said: "It is almost something out of Monty Python. Until they came up with that idea, they thought the fire may have been started by a bird carrying a lit cigarette into the roof."

Detailed examination failed to find any obvious electrical or other faults. Mr Blinell said: "While one of the experts was outside, he noticed a rat scurrying along by the side of a small stream and made the suggestion. Although I had not put down poison, he said it was possible that a rat might have eaten some near by and then gone up into the roof."

David Smith, the Swiss-based owner of the cottage, refused to name the insurance company. He said: "The whole matter is very sensitive because they have just verbally admitted liability." Once the property has been repaired, the Blinells hope to buy it. They would rename it Phoenix Cottage.

## GP barred by golf club over hole in one ear

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WELSH golf club has expelled a doctor who refused to remove a silver earring while playing. Dr Stephen Glascott, 46, said he had worn an earring for more than 20 years without anyone objecting.

Officials of The Ridgeway Golf Course near Caerphilly, South Wales, told Dr Glascott, who plays off an 18 handicap, that his earring was judged unacceptable by fellow golfers on the nine-hole course. "I was told that I would have to remove my earring if I wanted to continue as a member there," he said.

"I cannot understand why I am being banned because I had even played some competitions at The Ridgeway without anyone mentioning it. My earring has never been a problem at other courses. When Tiger Woods won the US Masters a lot of people hoped it would help to end the image of golf as a sport riven with snobbery and prejudice. This shows there's still a long way to go."

Dr Glascott, who has a surgery in Cardiff, joined the club last November. After his expulsion he was given a refund for the remaining five months of his membership subscription. Friends said he regularly wore the single ring in his left ear.

Larry Bayster, club captain at The Ridgeway, said Dr Glascott had been the only member to refuse to abide by the club's dress code. "The other men who wear earrings have agreed to remove them when they are playing," he said. He said the decision to ban men wearing earrings on the greens had been taken by the committee representing the club's 200 members. Women were not affected by the ban.



More than 150 local people joined police and rescue teams searching the mudflats and coastline where the boys had gone in search of adventure

## Bleached whale's whiff of the sea

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE skeleton of Moby, the whale that died in the Firth of Forth, went on display yesterday after a mammoth clean-up using 100 boxes of Persil Automatic washing powder and copious amounts of bleach.

It took more than a month to clean the huge frame of the 38.5-tonne sperm whale. But as the 52ft-long display was laid out in the National Museum of Scotland, it was apparent that the curators' hard work had failed to prevent an unmistakably fishy aroma.

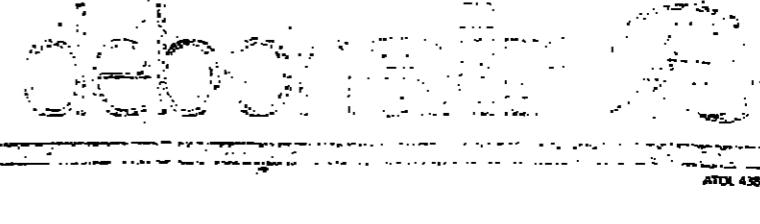
One of the first visitors, Scott Sine, 6, from Musselburgh, gave a quick assessment: "It's huge ... and it smells a bit." A museum spokeswoman explained that the smell came from oils in the bones that had not been extracted to enhance preservation.

Moby died on March 31 on mudflats near the village of Airth. The body was taken to a landfill site where more than 150 bones were removed before burial. At the National Museums Research Centre, in Granton, they were "cooked" in huge vats of water and Persil for 12 hours before being bleached and scraped.

Photograph, page 24



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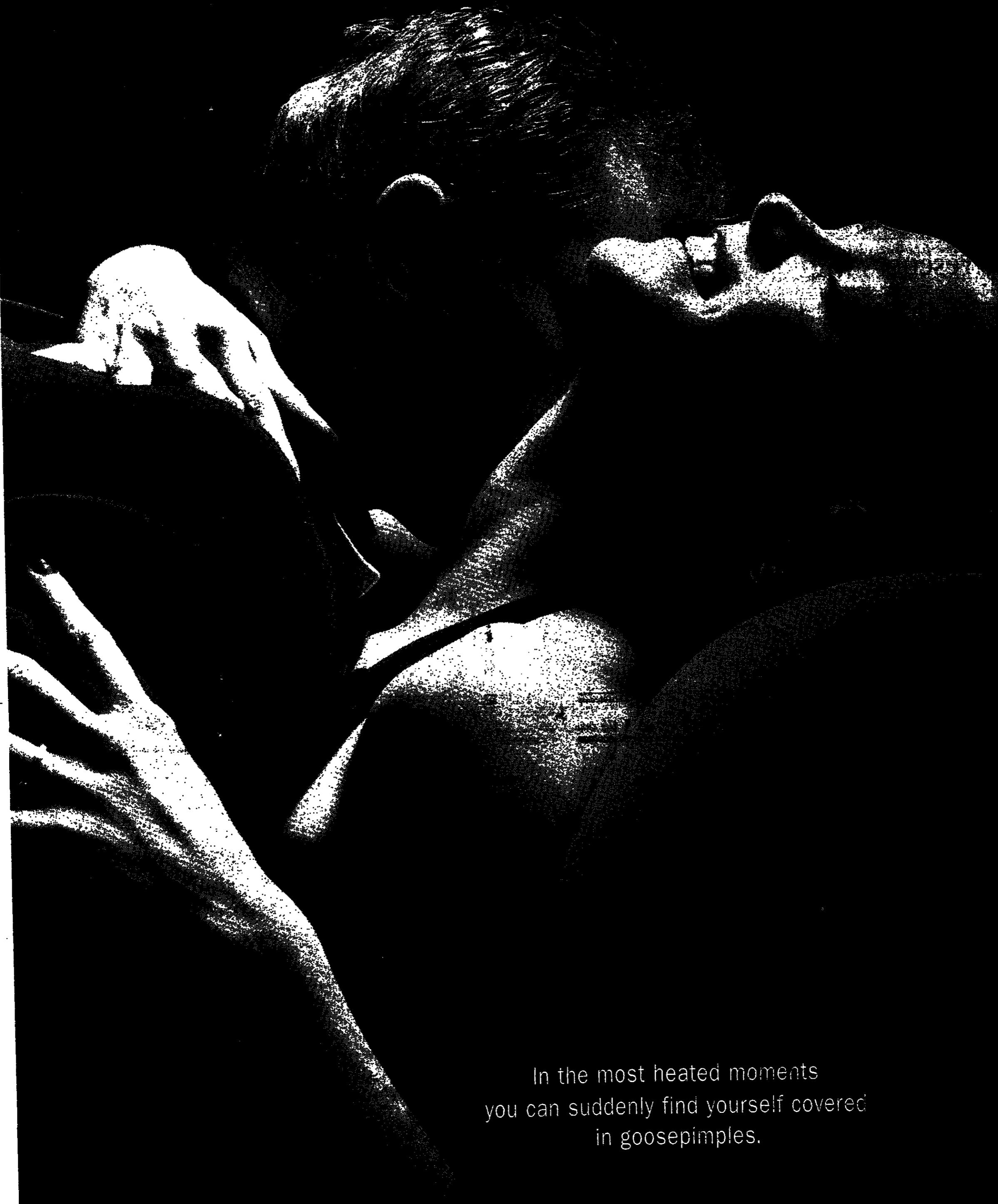


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## Little boy with an eye for the big picture

Dalya Alberge on a talent fed by war and poverty

THE paintings grew out of civil war and poverty. They are meant to portray the big picture of life and death. The artist is aged 11.

The talents of the boy from Georgia in the former Soviet Union so impressed a London art dealer that he is devoting an exhibition to the prodigy Beso Kazishvili. Roy Miles, who has a gallery on Bruton Street, said: "We have a possibility that we've found a genius."

The test may come when the works go on show from May 23 to June 6. Drawings will be priced at £200 to £300, and paintings at £700 to £800. Mr Miles wants some of his proceeds to pay for Beso to attend art school.

Beso, one of seven children, began drawing at the age of four, when Georgia was one of the richest parts of the Soviet empire. He has been so prolific that his oeuvre already extends to 3,000 works. He has worked with Indian ink, gouache,



Salvador Dali: fired Beso's imagination

watercolours, and oil, and gives some of his latest paintings such titles as *Grief* and *The Light of Beauty*.

A recurring motif is an eye. He said: "I paint an eye because it sees everything. When there are wars and people are dying, the big eye becomes wicked. It protects kind people but if they become friends of evil, it pun-

ishes them too. That big eye is the God."

Musicians bloom early but child geniuses are rare in visual arts. Millais and Picasso were among the few who developed by their teens. Last year the art world viewed with scepticism a ten-year-old girl hailed as "the new Picasso". Alexandra Nechita, daughter of a Romanian refugee, was seen by many as primarily a copyist. Beso's imagination is said to have been fired by the surrealist Salvador Dali.

Mr Miles set about arranging an exhibition within hours of being shown the work. He said: "He paints from the heart. When a country has gone through such a brutal war, children mature early. His country has terrible problems. It is now impoverished."

The Georgian ambassador to London, Teimuraz Mamatsashvili, said: "He explains things which we should not know about."



Beso with his picture *The Eyes*. In the background is Roy Miles, who said: "We have a possibility that we've found a genius"

## Cinema posters step back into the limelight

By JOHN SHAW

TWO posters that helped to attract cinema-goers 60 years ago are about to draw an audience just for themselves. Film buffs are expected to pay up to £9,000 each for the rare memorabilia in an auction of movie history.

The atmospheric images advertised *The 39 Steps*, widely considered Alfred Hitchcock's finest British film, and are the only known examples surviving from the 1935 production. One shows Robert Donat, the hero, hanging on to the outside doors of an express train as it thunders across the Forth Bridge.

Donat and Madeleine Carroll starred in the classic about a couple, handicapped together in a much-remade spy story adapted from the thriller by John Buchan. The posters were discovered in a cinema abroad and are being sold anonymously at Christie's in South Kensington on May 19. They are considered important to collectors because there are no examples from Hitchcock's pre-war films, said Tony Nourmand, a consultant to the auction house.

Some of Hitchcock's later Hollywood classics are currently being shown on tele-

vision, and the posters on sale include films such as *To Catch a Thief* (1955), *Vertigo* (1958), and *Psycho* (1960).

The Hitchcock group leads an auction which is strong in glamour. Rita Hayworth, Columbia's leading star from the golden age of Hollywood, is represented by *Gilda* (1946), which established her as a postwar sex goddess. A French poster for the film is expected to make up to £3,000, but a highly sought-after Italian version is expected to fetch up to £7,000.

World cinema is represented by material from an earlier era. Two French posters for *Pandora's Box* (1929), a landmark silent film by G.W. Pabst and starring Louise Brooks, are expected to fetch up to £12,000.

Christie's saleroom in Old Brompton Road has become one of the main centres of a growing international market in vintage film material. The sale, the fourth, is expected to make more than £240,000.

Earlier this year, one of only two known posters for *The Manxman*, a Boris Karloff horror film from 1932, set an auction record of £277,000 at Sotheby's in New York.



They don't make posters like that any more: the last-known survivors from the original *39 Steps*

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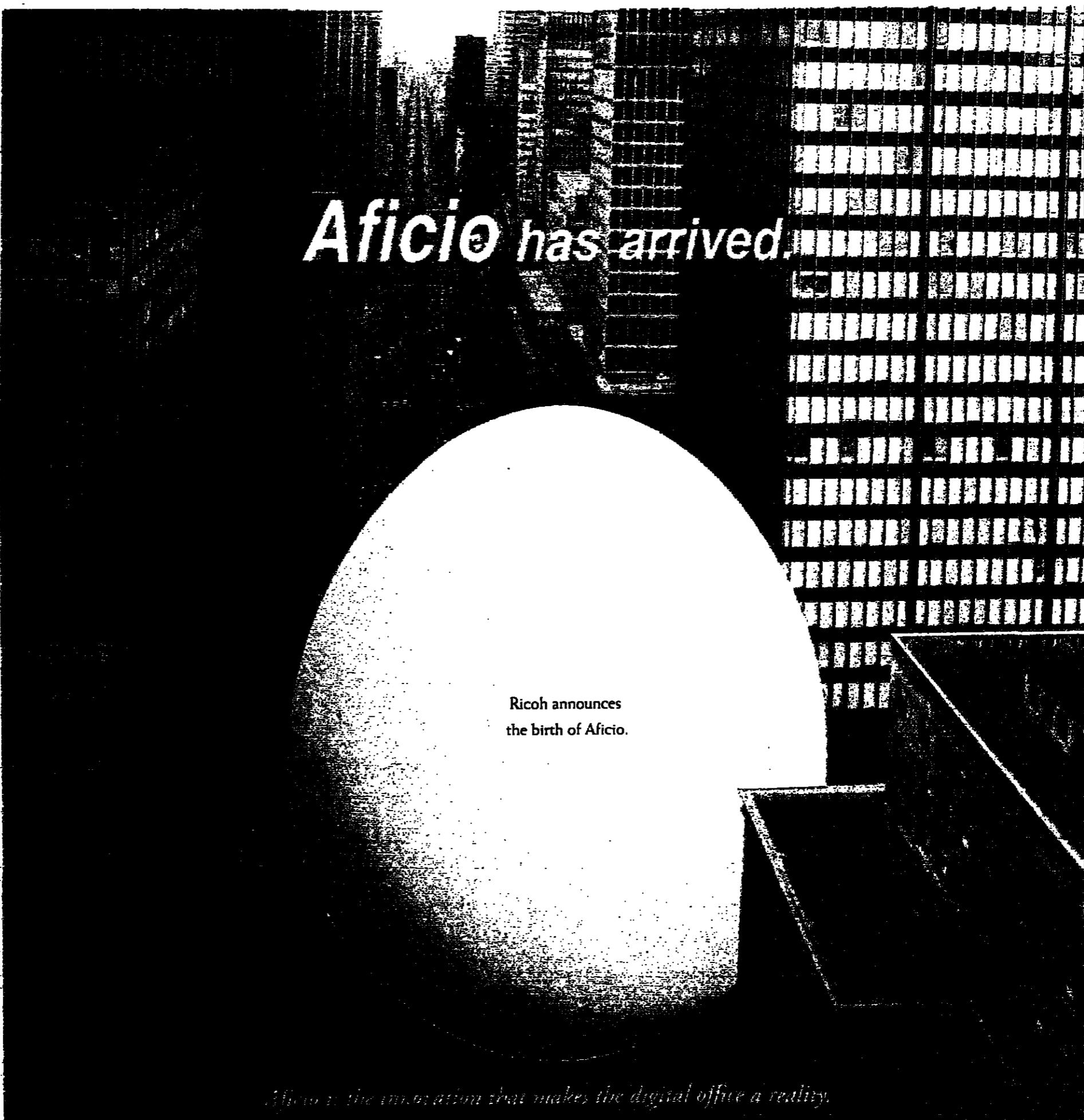
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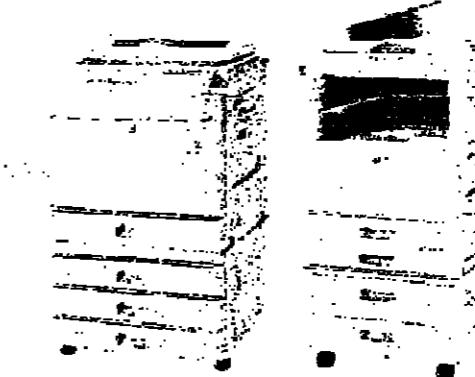


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There were two things that used to make me nervous,

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## S-class



# Old and new side by side in full ministerial line-up

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN and John Prescott ensured yesterday that they got the teams they wanted when the Prime Minister announced the final details of his Government.

Tony Blair's full ministerial list includes several more modernisers but also a generous helping of left-wing and old-Labour appointments notably Tony Banks, who becomes Sports Minister.

As expected, Alan Howarth, the Tory defector, gets his reward with a job as junior education minister. He had held higher office while serving with the Conservative Government but Mr Blair was reluctant to promote him too quickly to avoid resentment in the party.

Mr Banks, a left-wing campaigner for animal rights, and Chelsea supporter, is one of the most surprising appointments. The MP for West Ham has not held a frontbench job since 1993, when he was shadow London and transport spokesman.

Mr Blair's decision to move him into the sports job shows that he has no intention of



Howarth reward for defection

abandoning the Left in government.

Another key appointment goes to Dawn Primarolo, the left-wing MP for Bristol South, who becomes Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

Ms Primarolo, 43, was an active member of the left-wing Campaign Group and a close friend of Tony Benn.

Her new post, often seen as a stepping stone to the Cabinet, signals Mr Brown's confidence that she has discarded her "tax and spend" baggage.

The telegenic, sharp Campaigner has worked with Mr Brown since 1994, latterly in the post as shadow financial secretary.

Mr Brown has brought two of his shadow treasury team into government: Ms Primarolo and Alistair Darling, chief secretary to the Treasury. Geoffrey Robinson, who was appointed Paymaster General, a post which has gone back to the Treasury, is also a close friend of Mr Brown.

So too is Helen Liddell, former Scottish Party general secretary, who was close to the

late John Smith and took over his Monklands East seat after his death in 1994.

Mr Prescott has also rewarded his friends by packing his new super Transport and Environment Ministry with loyalists, many of whom have had difficulty coming to terms with New Labour and Blairism.

Richard Caborn, his campaign manager for the Labour leadership, becomes Mr Prescott's number two and Hilary

Blair, a former PPS to John Smith, is another minister of state. The other junior ministers include Angela Eagle and Glenda Jackson, both leftwingers.

Blairites also got their just rewards. Tessa Jowell, the arch moderniser, becomes number two at the department of health, where she is likely to quickly outshine Frank Dobson, her old-Labour boss.

Stephen Byers, another ally of Mr Blair, becomes David Blunkett's deputy at education, responsible for raising standards in schools.

Baroness Blackstone, another moderniser, becomes minister for higher education, taking over the slot vacated by Bryan Davies, who failed to find a seat in time for the general election.

Elizabeth Symons, former general secretary of the First Division Association of civil servants, lends a Blairite touch to the Foreign Office, where she becomes a minister.

She will be joined by Derek Fatchett and Tony Lloyd, both of whom are regarded as leftwingers and would have been handpicked by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.



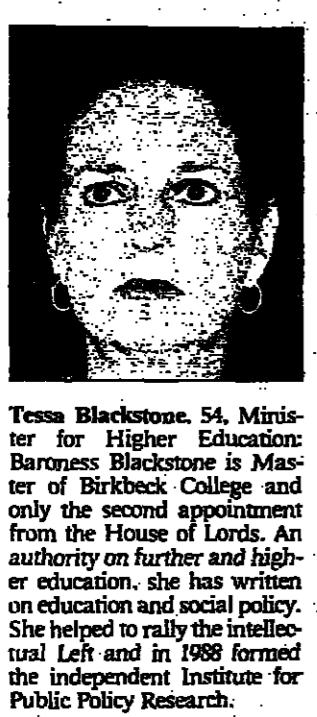
Joining Brown's team: Dawn Primarolo, left, and Helen Liddell outside the Treasury yesterday

Stephen Wilson has also been rewarded for his success in leading the rebuttal unit to counter Tory propaganda, becoming the number two in Scotland, deputising for Donald Dewar.

A leftwinger but a modernising convert, he was a key player in the new-Labour election campaign team along with Peter Mandelson. In his new job, he will have a pivotal role in shepherding the constitutional reforms through the House of Commons.

FULL LIST OF MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS FROM THE COMMONS

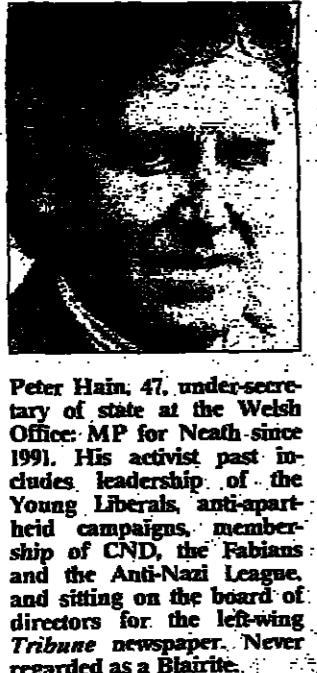
Stephen Byers, Education Minister	Hilary Armstrong, Environment and Transport Minister
Tessa Jowell, Health Minister	David Blunkett, Home Secretary
Alan Milburn, Health Minister	Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary
Alastair Darling, Home Office Minister	Nigel Griffiths, Under-Secretary of State in DTI
Joyce Quin, Home Office Minister	Barbara Roache, Under-Secretary of State in DTI
Derek Fatchett, Foreign Office Minister	Nick Raynsford, Under-Secretary of State for Environment
Tony Lloyd, Foreign Office Minister	Glenda Jackson, Under-Secretary of State for Environment and Transport
Adam Ingram, Northern Ireland Minister	Angela Eagle, Under-Secretary of State for Environment and Transport
Paul Murphy, Northern Ireland Minister	Keith Bradley, Under-Secretary of State for Social Security
Brian Wilson, Scottish Office Minister	John Denham, Under-Secretary of State for Social Security
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Ian McCartney, Trade Minister	Malcolm Chisholm, Under-Secretary of State at Scottish Office
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Richard Caborn, Environment and Transport Minister	
Geoff Hoon, Under-Secretary of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department	



Tessa Blackstone, 54, Minister for Higher Education: Baroness Blackstone is Master of Birkbeck College and only the second appointment from the House of Lords. An authority on further and higher education, she has written on education and social policy. She helped to rally the intellectual Left and in 1988 formed the independent Institute for Public Policy Research.



Derek Fatchett, 51, Minister of State at the Foreign Office: on the Shadow Foreign Office team from 1994 to 1997. MP for Leeds Central since 1983. Educated at Birmingham University and the LSE. Has held several key Labour front-bench positions, speaking on education, employment training, trade and industry, defence and foreign affairs.



Peter Hain, 47, under-secretary of state at the Welsh Office: MP for Neath since 1997. His activist past includes leadership of the Young Liberals, anti-apartheid campaigns, membership of CND, the Fabians and the Anti-Nazi League, and sitting on the board of directors for the left-wing Tribune newspaper. Never regarded as a Blairite.



Angela Eagle, 36, Under-Secretary at the Department of Transport: a bright left-winger destined for fame. Would shrink from being described as a Blairite and is seen as a Prescott appointee. MP for Wallasey since 1992, she was a member of a number of Commons select committees before becoming a Labour whip in 1996. Chairman of the Tribune group.



Joyce Quin, 52, Home Office Minister: was tipped as minister for Europe, but considered too pro-European. Spent ten years in Brussels as a Labour Euro-MP for Tyne and Wear and then shadowed the job in Opposition in 1993. MP for Gateshead since 1987. Educated at Newcastle and London universities, and formerly a lecturer in French and politics.



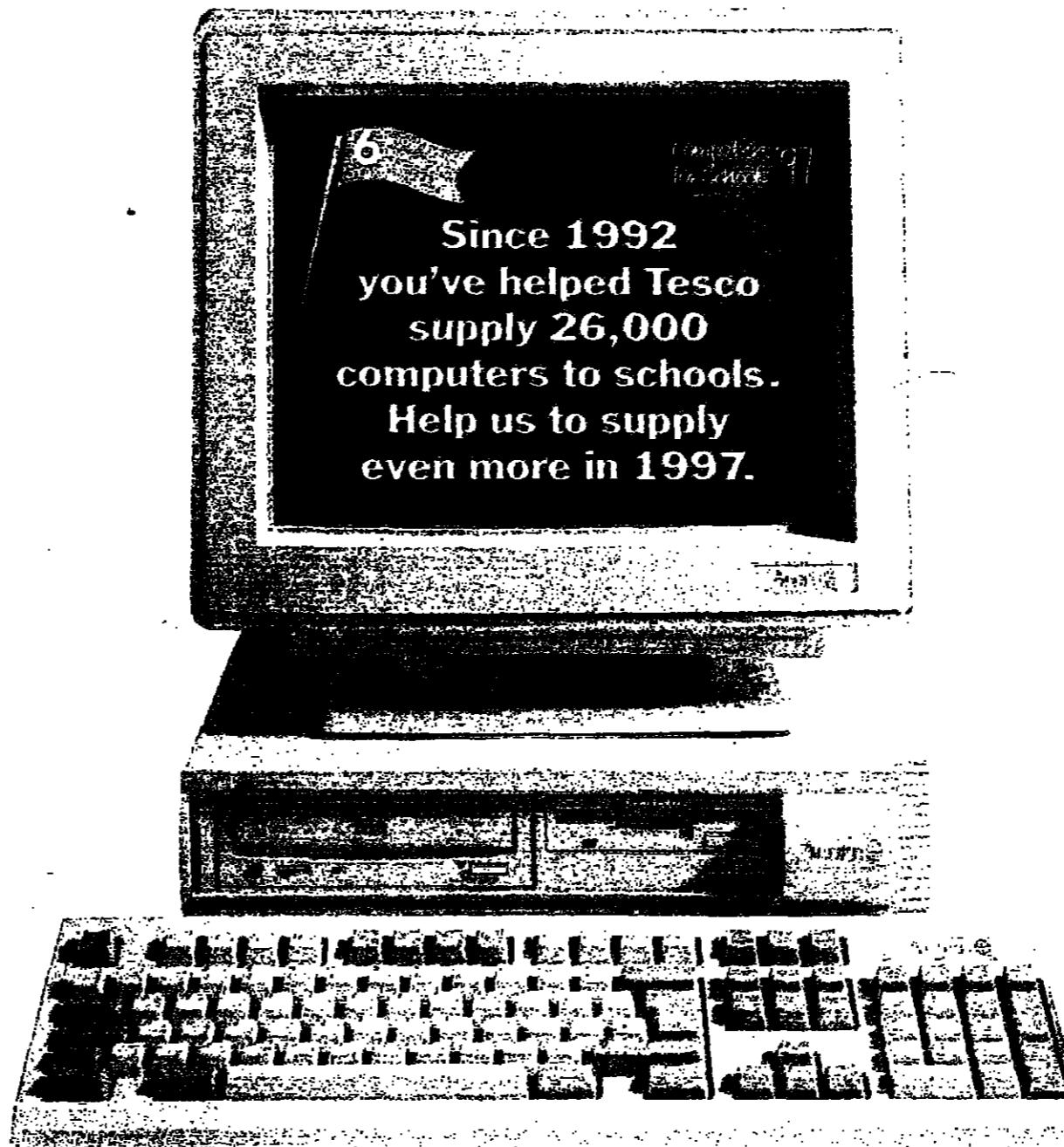
Richard Caborn, 53, Minister of State for Environment and Transport (deputy to Prescott, whose leadership campaign he led): Old Labour with a sense of humour. An MEP 1979-84, MP for Sheffield Central since 1983. Began working life as engineering apprentice and is a former convenor of shop stewards and vice-president of Sheffield Trades Council.



Geoff Hoon, 43, under-secretary at Lord Chancellor's Office: bright moderniser instrumental in building links between business and new Labour while opposition spokesman at Trade and Industry. MP for Ashfield, an opposition whip and an MEP for Derbyshire from 1984-94. He is an enthusiastic pro-European.



Hilary Armstrong, 51, Minister of State for Environment: former PPS to the late John Smith. A likeable and respected moderate, instrumental in securing union support for one-member one-vote reforms in 1993. MP for Durham North West since 1987, number two on environment since 1995. Former lecturer in community and youth work.



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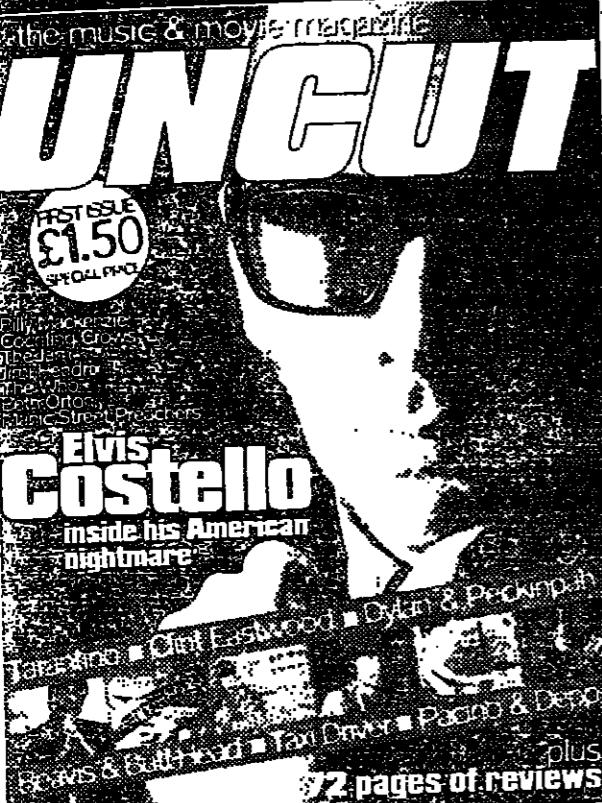
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Study shows early marrow transplant is answer to immune deficiency

## Cure found for 'bubble boy' disease

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

BABIES born without an immune system, and prey to every passing infection, can be cured if the condition is detected quickly, an American study has shown.

The rare condition is known as "bubble boy" disease, because without treatment its victims can be protected from infection only by living inside a plastic bubble. It used to be a death sentence, although today many children are saved by bone-marrow transplants. However, the number could be higher still if the condition could be detected earlier and a transplant carried out within three months of birth, according to Rebecca Buckley of Duke University Medical Centre in Durham, North Carolina.

More than 90 per cent of babies born with the disorder could be given a healthy immune system if treated promptly, she said. It is not even necessary to find a perfect match: bone marrow from either parent is nearly as good.

The results of a 15-year study at Duke of 79 children with the condition was presented at the weekend at the annual conference of the American Pediatrics Society/Society for Pediatric Research. Dr Buckley said: "This once fatal disease should now be seen as a pediatric emergency, a condition that needs immediate diagnosis and treatment. Essentially, every baby with SCID could be cured if diagnosed early enough."

Babies with the condition suffer from a variety of genetic defects that leave their immune cells unable to fight off infections. It is very rare, occurring once in every half a million to a million births. Britain has fewer than a dozen cases a year, David Watters, Secretary-General of the Primary Immunodeficiency Association, said.

Dr Buckley said that routine testing of white blood cell count in newborn babies would pick up SCID sufferers and enable them to be cured. If the condition was not discovered until later, treatment could still be successful but was likely to be more prolonged and expensive. "A simple blood test could allow us to treat, and most likely cure, SCID in a child for as little as \$25,000 (£15,600)," she said. "If found later, less effective treatment can run into the millions."

With the mother available as a marrow donor, the transplant can be done in the first few days of the baby's life. The baby can be treated in a day or as an out-patient.

The Duke team has also found that transplants can be done without chemotherapy. Many doctors give chemotherapy because they are following protocols originally developed for cancer treatment. But it is



Mark and Ann Vincent playing with a healthy Owen, who was diagnosed at seven months and had a transplant six months later

## Baby diagnosed at seven months must be kept under close watch

WHEN Owen Vincent was born in August 1994, he appeared to be a normal baby. However, by Christmas he was starting to refuse food and fluids and his condition was worrying his parents.

After four GPs had reassured her that nothing was wrong, Ann Vincent declared that enough was enough and took Owen to Lewisham Hospital in southeast London. He was there until March before being diagnosed as suffering from SCID, and was then transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

"By this time he had double pneumonia and was very ill," Mark Vincent, of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, said. "But by June a matched donor had been found, and he had the bone marrow transplant in September, when he was just over a year old. He was given chemotherapy first." The



Owen in an oxygen chamber

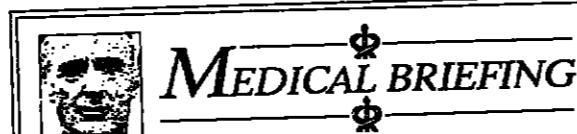
transplant worked, and Owen is now a healthy boy. But because of his medical history, his parents have to make tremendous efforts to avoid infections. "Our friends know not to come and visit us if they have even the suspicion of a

cough or a cold," Mr Vincent said. "We have also been told to avoid taking him to swimming baths, and when we asked recently if it was safe to have a dog, we were advised to wait a bit. It comes down to being sensible."

Despite their efforts, scares are not unknown. Owen recently developed septicemia and had to spend time in hospital. "Because of what he's been through, he was kept in longer than another baby would have been," Mr Vincent said. "But it turned out the infection was nothing to do with his condition, and he's better now."

Because the condition is genetic, Mr and Mrs Vincent are uncertain whether to have more children. "It's roulette, isn't it?" Mr Vincent said. If they were to have another affected child, it would at least be detected earlier, which would make treatment easier.

## Research eases cancer fear in sterilisation



DR THOMAS STUTTAFOORD

RECENT research from the United States, published in the American Journal of Epidemiology, provides some reassuring news for men and women who have been surgically sterilised. Vasectomy was not shown to increase the chance of developing cancer of the prostate unless the man had a family history of the condition. In women, sterilisation by tubal ligation was clearly shown to reduce the risk of cancer of the ovary.

Family planning by sterilisation, whether of the man or woman, is now the chosen method of contraception by a third of American couples. The proportion is rather less in Britain but it is becoming increasingly popular among women over 35, reluctant to use the Pill.

There are disadvantages to sterilisation in both sexes. The man who has the vasectomy may develop a haematoma, severe and painful bruising, or a sperm granuloma, a chronic, painful inflammatory lump which may persist for months and is caused by sperm leakage.

Nor is there any yet certain whether the production of antibodies to sperm, which usually happens after a vasectomy, might not cause other medical problems: some animal studies, for instance, have associated them with cardiovascular disease in later life.

Nor is it certain that a vasectomy will not reduce sexual prowess in older age. Above all, there have been several reports that it could increase the risk of prostate cancer — there have been 14 studies of a possible link. These have given diverse results but the majority clear vasectomy of increasing the risk of malignant change. This latest report is mainly

reassuring but the statistics still show a possible association between vasectomy and cancer of the prostate, but only in those men with a family history of the disease — which is more common than often realised.

The objection to female sterilisation is usually on the ground that it is a more complex operation, as it involves intra-peritoneal surgery. Although the incision is small, the surgeon needs to rummage around in the inner recesses of the abdomen and pelvis. The concept has become established that for a man to have a vasectomy, thereby sparing the woman the problems of sterilisation, is a fundamental but courtly gesture of devotion.

A disadvantage of female sterilisation, rarely mentioned, is that it changes the menstrual pattern in an appreciable minority of women.

Some have lighter periods thereafter, others heavier. A possible beneficial effect of this phenomenon, presumed to be the result of interference with ovarian function, has now been revealed by the US National Cancer Study, which has been following the health of 1.2 million Americans since 1982. Research workers report that even when every statistically confounding factor has been removed, tubal sterilisation appreciably decreases the incidence of cancer of the ovary.

The results of the study, if confirmed, are particularly important, as any comparatively simple procedure which would solve the contraceptive problems of women in their thirties, and lessen by about a third the risk of developing a cancer which is as dangerous as it is difficult to diagnose, would be a great advance.

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# Britons delayed as blockades return to French roads

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

**FRENCH** lorry drivers blocked major roads in France yesterday in a repeat of the strike that brought the country to a standstill in November.

A 41-year-old union official died when he was struck by a lorry at a roadblock near Bordain. Witnesses said the official was attempting to persuade the drivers to stop.

British hauliers were caught up in roadblocks outside Boulogne for several hours yesterday morning and on a trunk road near Dunkirk for much of the day. Private cars were let through the "filter block" two miles from Dunkirk, but lorries had to divert through Belgium to reach the Channel port.

The French National Highway Information Centre said traffic was moving freely around the ferry and Eurotunnel terminals at Calais, but added: "Roadblocks can spring up anywhere at any time." Although the protest

movement started slowly yesterday, unions hinted that they might step up their action, threatening more of the chaos and gridlock that gripped France last year. Six months ago striking drivers blocked 250 roads for 12 days.

British road-haulage companies are claiming £5 million compensation from the French authorities. Claims from other European operators total £85 million.

French drivers are angry at what they say is a failure to implement a November agreement to offer them early retirement at 55. They prevented access to a petrol depot near Bordeaux and set up a dozen other roadblocks. They also staged a number of "Opérations Escargots", clogging traffic by rolling at a snail's pace along motorways and on the Paris ring-road during the morning rush hour.

"At the moment, this is nothing like the scale of November's strike," the highway information centre said.

Roger Poletti, secretary-general of the Transport Federation at the centre-left Force Ouvrière, one of two unions supporting the strike, said:

"Out of 3,760 drivers between 55 and 60, at most 350 will be able to benefit from the early retirement agreement. Drivers have not seen their conditions improve at all."

M Poletti added that his members had not received a Fr3,000 bonus promised after the November protests and a government decree on rest time was "inapplicable and unapplied".

However, the political costs of the November settlement are high. Yesterday some of France's 16,000 bus and coach drivers joined the strike as they, too, sought the right to stop work at 55. Buses blocked town centres in Caen, in Normandy, and Quimper and Brest in Brittany.



Princess Cristina of Spain and handball player Inaki Urdangarin seen together at the weekend for the first time since their official engagement last Wednesday

## Chirac is urged to rescue campaign mired in boredom

BY ADAM SAGE

**PRESIDENT CHIRAC** is under pressure to relaunch a French parliamentary election campaign that has been condemned as boring by commentators and voters.

M Chirac's centre-right coalition, which is losing ground in the polls, wants him to intervene in the election on the second anniversary of his presidential triumph tomorrow. The move would be controversial, as M Chirac is expected today above the political fray.

But the President's supporters hope he will be able to kick start the lachidre campaign, organised by Alain Juppé, his Prime Minister. With Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader,

performing almost as badly, the Gaullist-led majority believes the President can turn the tide in its favour. "I am expecting a lot from the presidential intervention," said Claude Goasguen, general secretary of M Chirac's Rally for the Republic.

Stephane Rozès, an analyst, said a sense of confusion and apathy had settled over the political debate. With the ruling coalition promising continuity if it is re-elected, voters could not understand why it was necessary to call a snap election, he said.

With the Socialists and the ruling majority keen to avoid defeat over Europe, the main argument has been over Tony Blair's election in Britain. The Left says it presages a Socialist victory in France. The Right contrasts Mr Blair's centrist policies with M Jospin's "old-fashioned" manifesto.

□ Neck and neck: An opinion poll yesterday showed the French Left neck-and-neck with the ruling centre-right coalition and gaining ground. A Louis Harris survey for LCI television found the Centre-Right and the opposition alliance of Socialists and Communists could poll 38 per cent of the votes each. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21

## Heavyweight cut up by sister's punch

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

**UNABASHED** that the word "sissy" might spring swiftly to the lips, Riddick Bowe, a former world heavyweight boxing champion, yesterday filed charges against his sister — for punching him.

Mr Bowe, 40, and weighing 250lb, alleges that his sister, dimensions unknown, hit him on his lower lip during a spot of sibling rivalry. She must have struck him with the precision of a prize fighter as the boxer's doctor referred to "considerable labial damage".

The sister, Velma, has countered her brother's charges and the doctor's jargon by saying that Mr Bowe hit her for punching him.

In January he fulfilled a lifelong dream by enlisting in the Marine Corps, only to drop out, "bushed", after ten days of active service.

Yesterday, a tight-lipped police spokesman from Maryland's Prince George County station said: "Yes, we are investigating a dispute in the Bowe family." Pressed, he conceded that his officers "could barely stop laughing".

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## Navy on course for military removal

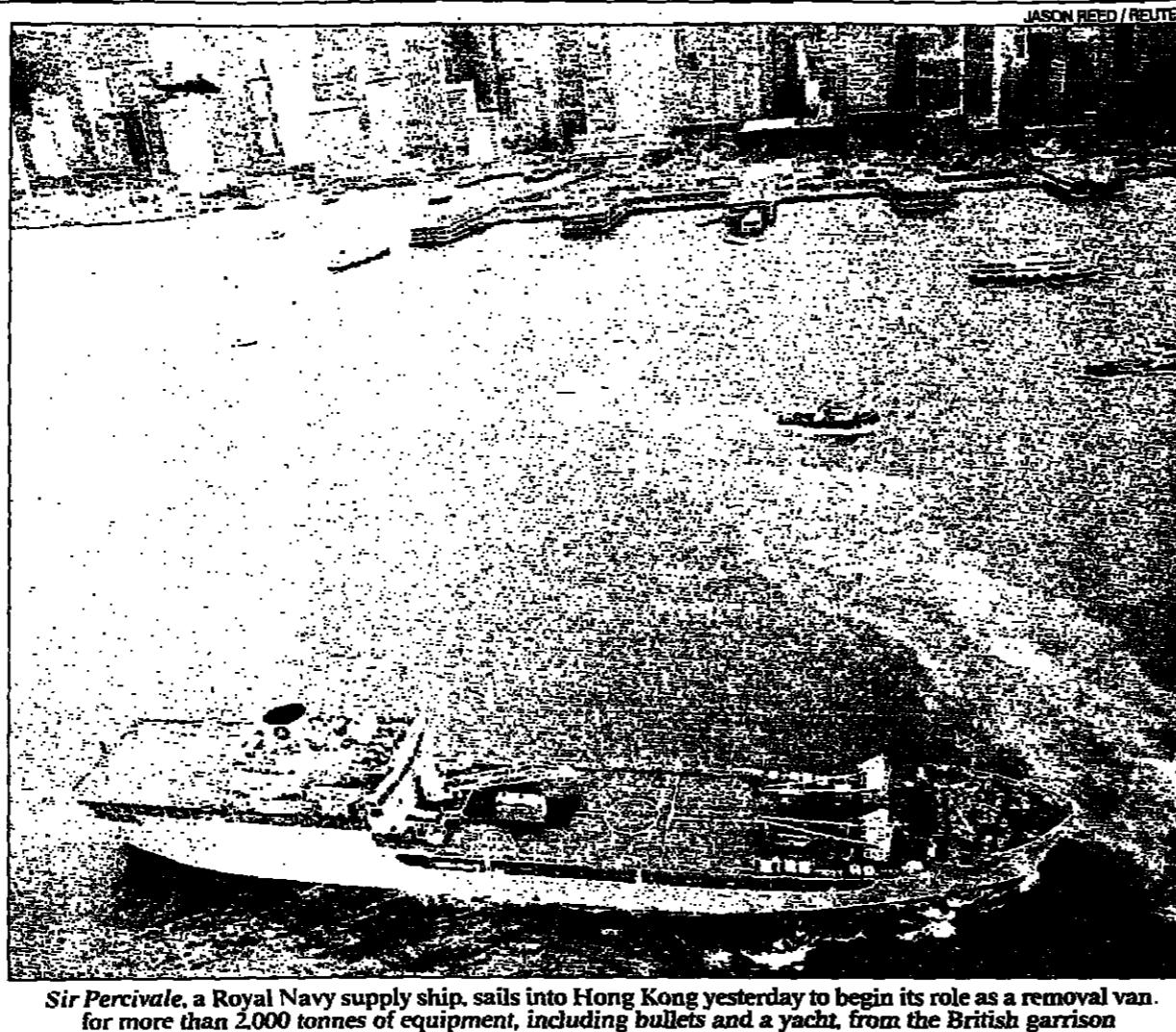
FROM CATHERINE FIELD  
IN HONG KONG

A ROYAL NAVY vessel arrived in Hong Kong yesterday to take away the last of Britain's military equipment from the territory.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship *Sir Percivale* will be part of a British military escort of five vessels for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* when she leaves Hong Kong at midnight on June 30 with the Prince of Wales and Chris Patten, the Governor.

"Sir *Percivale* will be taking some ammunition and other military equipment back to Britain", said Major John Herring, the British garrison spokesman.

Before she weighs anchor, *Sir Percivale* will also become temporary home to the British Forces Broadcasting Service, which must leave its studios at Prince of Wales Barracks before June 30, when the building is handed over to the Chinese People's Liberation Army.



*Sir Percivale*, a Royal Navy supply ship, sails into Hong Kong yesterday to begin its role as a removal van for more than 2,000 tonnes of equipment, including bullets and a yacht, from the British garrison

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GREAT MINDS  
THINK VIGLEN

## Tung urges Blair to abandon Tory Hong Kong line

TUNG CHEE-HWA, Chief Executive-designate of the Hong Kong Government from July 1, called yesterday on the Government of Tony Blair to make a new start in Sino-British relations over Hong Kong.

In his first on-the-record interview with British newspapers since his appointment last year, Mr Tung said that he had read Labour statements that the Blair administration would continue the present British policy towards Hong Kong, which contests some of Mr Tung's basic plans.

"Nevertheless, I hope the new Labour Government will look at the whole issue in a more macro way, looking at long-term relations between Hong Kong and Britain, China and Britain – to put behind [us] all the arguments to sit down, say these things have to be done and move forward continuously in the interest of the six and a half million people of Hong Kong."

The next Hong Kong leader hopes Labour will make a fresh start in Sino-British relations, Jonathan Mirsky writes

such contributions to political parties here. "We are too small, too vulnerable." Similarly, he says he knows some Communists in Hong Kong and "they are good people, the Communist Party in China does a good job". Although it is generally agreed there are at least 20,000 party members here, Mr Tung says: "They cannot be politically active after July. There wouldn't be one country, two systems."

While he insists there are no Communists in his Executive Council and he reads such rumours "with amazement", party members here have identified two or three – Mr Tung appears to forget he has just said the party must not be active here, and notes that if there were party members in his Executive Council "I wouldn't be concerned".

Apart from this straightforward statement of hope and a few other direct remarks – such as there are no Communists in his own Executive Council, that Democrats can contest the next Legislative Council elections in June 1998, taking the place of Beijing's appointed body which in turn will have taken over from the wholly elected one on July 1, and that he does not hold the equivalent rank of minister in the Chinese Government – Mr Tung evaded most questions or repeated the bromides to which Hong Kong has become accustomed since January. He is an affable, courteous, seemingly cheerful man, but his views would not be worth repeating were he not about to become the supreme political figure in one of the most successful and richest cities on the planet. What Mr Tung expresses are the opinions of the Hong Kong super rich in their clubs, and in the same circles. He repeats, in answer to questions about his opinions and about they are formed, that Hong Kong "must move forward ... we must find a balance between the individual and society ... don't judge other people by your own rules ... we must act as we think right".

In 1991 Mr Tung gave £50,000 to the Conservatives' election drive. In those days he was a ship owner, he said, "with large financial concerns in the UK. We were called on to make some donations to the governing party. We did that. It was perfectly legal." But he will bring in a law forbidding after July 1, Mr Tung insisted: "Everyone must obey the law." Reminded that arresting Mr Lee before 6,000 international journalists here for the handover would indeed make him a martyr, Mr Tung repeated: "No one is above the law." When it was suggested that Hong Kong is a peaceful city he replied: "We want to keep it that way."

Reminded that 300 university social scientists and Hong Kong's leading lawyers have

pressed him not to change the laws pertaining to certain civil rights, which he rightly says were until recently curtailed by the British, Mr Tung said:

"Yeah, yeah, I know." He had already observed that most Hong Kong people agreed with him on the importance of "balance".



Tung Chee-hwa, talking to British correspondents, blamed the Tories for bad relations with China

## Deep Blue checks Kasparov success

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

GARRY KASPAROV, the world chess champion with the instincts of a rottweiler, was in the unaccustomed position of licking his wounds yesterday after Deep Blue, a supercomputer built by IBM scientists, whipped him in the second game of their six-match "man versus machine" challenge series.

After the game, played on Sunday, the series is now level at one victory apiece. The third match will be played today. Mr Kasparov's contingent, while shaken by their champion's defeat, is still confident of pulling through to victory in a battle that has now sprung vividly to life.

Some cynics have been suggesting that the defeat stung both Mr Kasparov and IBM a little too perfectly; a six-match whitewash in favour of the Russian would have killed off interest in future matches like this one, which is worth a lucrative \$700,000 (£437,000) to the winner and an incalculable amount of chess-playing publicity to IBM.

But Internet users around

the world, it has emerged, have risen nobly above the scepticism, and are following the tussle with a generous passion: Every day since the series began last Saturday, thousands of people have "hit" IBM's chess web site – <http://www.chess.ibm.com/> – where the matches can be followed move by move.

America's on-line magazines are abuzz with erudite reports, discussions, rolling analyses and polls. One magazine asked its subscribers: "Kasparov versus Deep Blue: Who will win the chess tournament?" Nine won with 71 per cent of the Net votes polled; machine polled only 29 per cent.

Mr Kasparov, for his part, has shown that he can be as shrewd off the chessboard as he is ruthless on it. Picking his moment beautifully, he has just launched his own on-line enterprise, a "Kasparov chess club". Fans can explore Mr Kasparov's thoughts on the future of chess-playing computers, and his match reports.

Raymond Keene, page 23

Aid staff plead for halt to Zaire rail evacuation despite rush to flee camp of horror

## Exodus of refugees goes on after 91 die in packed train

FROM DAVID ORR  
IN KISANGANI

ZAIREAN rebels appeared slow to react to an appeal by aid workers yesterday to halt the use of a narrow-gauge railway after 91 refugees died in overcrowded trucks.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had appealed to the rebel authorities not to allow the train to run again until its operation could be better monitored. But six lorries full of refugees were still being loaded at the camp without any checks by humanitarian agencies.

Aid workers in Kisangani were still trying to come to terms with the horrific scenes they witnessed when the train carrying Rwandan refugees from the forest arrived at its terminus beside the River Congo on Sunday night. When the goods wagons carrying more than 3,000 people disgorged their cargo, 91 passengers were found to be dead and 47 injured, some seriously. Yesterday the ground was littered with discarded possessions: tattered clothing, cooking pots, identity cards.

"The train was overcrowded.

"Some refugees were grieving, but most seemed numb. People were just walking over the corpses."

biscuits, Bibles and rosary beads. Andy Bastable, of Oxfam, said: "There were men, women and children dead in the carriages. Some of the refugees were grieving over the bodies, but most just seemed numb. When we un-loaded the dead, people were just walking over the corpses on the ground."

It was just by chance that a group of aid workers was at the terminus when the train pulled in. Having spent the day at Bairo refugee camp, deep in the forest, they were waiting by the river for the ferry to take them back to Kisangani. Among them was a German doctor who had been treating wounded refugees at the camp, 25 miles south of the town.

"We had appealed to the alliance not to run a train that day because our transit camp was already overfull," said Paul Stromberg for the UNHCR. "But the train was loaded and set off without an OK from us. We don't know if

it was the alliance which gave the order or if it was simply a matter of the rail company deciding to take another load."

The Rwandan refugees are living in conditions of appalling squalor in Bairo with little



A two-year-old Hutu refugee waits to be registered at Kigali airport in Rwanda with his father after being flown from Kisangani in Zaire

## Unita troops plan counter-attack as Kabila advances on capital

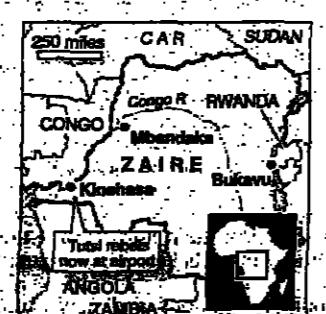
FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

LAURENT KABILA last night gave President Mobutu "two to three days" to step down to save himself and his family from advancing rebels who claimed yesterday they were closing in on Kinshasa from the east and the west.

"If Mobutu turns over power before we enter Kinshasa, I will guarantee his safety and that of his biological family. But if he does not, we will have to chase him away in humiliation," Mr Kabila said at his headquarters in Lubumbashi.

The threat was dismissed by Mobutu Nzanga, 27, the son and spokesman for the President as "the arrogant words of a hooligan". Members of Mr Mobutu's entourage also said that they were organising a counter-attack using 500 men from Angola's Unita guerrillas and hand-picked soldiers from the special presidential division.

Yesterday they said that the column of elite troops was heading east, and that they intended to try to retake Kenge, about 120 miles from



Who wants to die for a dying man?" said one young private.

Bill Richardson, the American special envoy, appeared to be of a like mind. After meeting Mr Kabila he said that he was hoping to arrange a "soft landing" for the rebels when they enter Kinshasa. "The object of my urgent mission is to prepare a soft landing for Mr Kabila's rebels when they reach Kinshasa to avoid bloodshed and chaos," Mr Richardson said.

After refusing all diplomatic requests that he drop his demand for Mr Mobutu to resign and hand power over to his alliance, Mr Kabila has begun to emerge as an independent force having shaken off the reigns of his original handlers in Rwanda and Uganda.

In an attempt to persuade the rebel leader's allies to put pressure on him into a less belligerent attitude, Mr Richardson also visited Paul Kagame, Rwanda's Defence Minister, and President Museveni of Uganda. Most people in Kinshasa were anxiously waiting for the rebels to arrive in the capital. Their main concern was that government soldiers would go on a final looting spree.

Citizens were preparing white flags to drape outside their homes in a sign of support for Mr Kabila. But most damaging for Mr Mobutu, who said at talks over the weekend that he was prepared to hand over to an elected leader, was that many units in his own army were also preparing to change sides.

■ Brazzaville: Thirty non-commissioned officers last night surrounded Congo's Defence Ministry, firing in the air to stop traffic as they pressed a demand for a new law on the reorganisation of the army. The commercial centre of the capital of Congo, two miles from Kinshasa across the Congo river, went into panic as civil servants left work early and shops closed. (AFP/Reuters)

Under our voting system the only way for many people to use their votes effectively is to vote tactically. Tactical voting decisively influenced the general election result. It is a negative way of voting.

But negative voting was a fitting response to one of the most negative election campaigns in British history. Targeting of marginal seats has led to the lowest turnout in any general election since the 1930s.

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TTA/07

## Families cook near piles of corpses

BY DAVID ORR

"WHERE are the guys who pick up the bodies?" asked one of the aid workers with Médecins Sans Frontières. A Zairean said he was part of the team in charge of the corpses.

The aid worker said: "OK, I'll give you body bags and gloves. First, we'll bury the bodies, then we'll put bracelets on the wounded so we know which are the emergency cases for evacuation."

Another visit by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to Bairo camp, deep in the Zairean rainforest, had begun. There are more than 30,000 Rwandan refugees camped in the mud and filth of this makeshift settlement, 25 miles south of Kisangani. Bodies litter the site while the sick and wounded languish in the most abject squalor imaginable. Everywhere there is the sound of children crying.

"The only way we can cope is by

treating those who have a chance of surviving," said Dominique Boutrou, the MSF's head of mission. "We have to make decisions about those whom we can treat and those who are so sick they're going to die. It's terrible but in these conditions there's no other way."

The world has all but turned its back on the tragedy in the Zairean rainforest. Most days there are no more than half a dozen international aid agencies working at Bairo. A couple of doctors and a handful of medical assistants struggle to cope with an emergency that demands doctors by the hundred.

The dead are piled up behind the tents. Only feet away, families cook food over smoking fires, wash babies in filthy water and build shelters against the torrential rain.

■ Kisangani: About 55,000 Rwandans were driven out of their encampments by Zairean villagers wielding machetes and rebels firing automatic weapons. Nobody knows how many died, but the stench of bodies along the

muddy track to the camps attests to the carnage. Last week the first refugees emerged from forest hiding places.

The paucity of the international aid presence is exacerbated by the reluctance of the rebel authorities to help the refugees. One frustrated aid worker at Bairo said: "They haven't allowed agencies to set up cooking centres or medical facilities. How are people meant to eat or get proper care?"

The dead are piled up behind the tents. Only feet away, families cook food over smoking fires, wash babies in filthy water and build shelters against the torrential rain.

■ Kisangani: About 55,000 Rwandans were driven out of their encampments by Zairean villagers wielding machetes and rebels firing automatic weapons. Nobody knows how many died, but the stench of bodies along the

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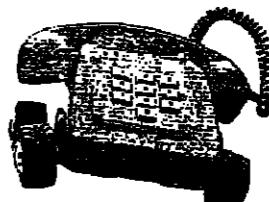
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# Rewards of opium trade highlight Taliban hypocrisy

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KANDAHAR

THE poppy fields start on the outskirts of Kandahar, the crop tall and ready for harvesting. In the coming month Afghanistan will produce enough raw opium to supply 80 per cent of the heroin market in Britain and the rest of Europe for a year, and there is nothing to stop it.

The southern city of Kandahar is the headquarters of Taliban, the militia that controls two thirds of the Islamic state. It imposes severe punishments for drug-taking by Afghans but encourages a vast narcotics industry for foreign markets. Afghanistan produces as much opium as Burma, the world's other main producer. Together they dominate the heroin trade and have divided the world between them: Europe belongs to Afghanistan, the United States to Burma.

Taliban's assertion that it is fighting heroin production is clearly a lie. Mullah Muhammad Omar, its reclusive one-eyed leader, could drive from his complex in Kandahar to the nearest poppy fields in ten minutes. For every kilo (2.2lb) of raw opium, Taliban imposes 10 per cent *zakat*, a



Sunni Muslim tax. There are perhaps 250,000 poppy farmers in Taliban-controlled areas in the south, east and west of the country, all operating with impunity. The Islamic army has banned hashish production because the drug was widely consumed, but opium and heroin have never been part of Afghan culture or tradition.

A few opium smokers have been punished by being dunked for hours in freezing mountain streams or publicly flogged, but hard drugs have never been a significant social problem, unlike in neighbouring Pakistan, whose society is torn apart by them. Taliban allows poppy production because banning it would

cause severe economic hardship to millions of Afghans, and would cost the Islamic army dearly in lost popularity and revenue.

Opium prices have quadrupled in the past four months, possibly because of fears that Taliban, anxious for international respectability, will eventually ban production. The United Nations Drug Control Programme is attempting to introduce crop-substitution schemes, but it is a long-term objective fraught with problems in a country with no government. Tree-borne fruits offer the best prospect of matching the profit margins of poppies, but most orchards have been destroyed by war.

All poppy farmers grow wheat and other crops for sale and personal consumption, but poppies are by far the best cash crop. They need little water, grow in poor soil and resist disease. Growers are likely to be paid around 5,500 Pakistani rupees (nearly £100) for a kilo of raw opium this season — substantial for a small farmer.

The buyers, often from Iran, come direct to the fields. It is a quick, simple process to turn

opium into morphine base and heroin, requiring only two chemicals and some containers for the mixture. Most is processed in Afghanistan, although a substantial amount is produced in tribal areas of

Pakistan, despite official denials. The end product reaches Europe mostly via Central Asia and Turkey. Some goes through Iran, which conducts a concerted but losing drive against traffickers who fight

back with sophisticated weaponry, including shoulder-held Stinger missiles.

Ten miles outside Kandahar, Ahmed Gul stands by his modest land holding. "We know that

drugs are not allowed under Islam, but we are very poor."

He says: "I am sorry for the addiction in Europe and America. One day we will stop this. There has to be another way. But we have to live."

being we have to cultivate poppies." Ahmed Gul says he is sorry for the addiction in Europe and America. "One day we will stop this. There has to be another way. But we have to live."



An Afghan boy looks after his family's poppy crop. Although few in Afghanistan smoke opium, it is an important cash crop for peasant farmers. Growers will be paid about £100 for just over 2lb of raw opium after this year's harvest. "We have to live," said one farmer

## Israeli military makes Holocaust Day attack on budget

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday marked the annual 24 hours of remembrance for the six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust amid warnings from senior military officials that the country severely underequipped to face new threats from Syria and Iran.

As traffic and pedestrians across the nation halted for two minutes, heralded by the chilling wail of thousands of air raid sirens, the Tel Aviv daily *Maariv* quoted the military officials as claiming that the annual defence budget was one billion shekels (£200 million) short of what was needed to fight a new war. In a hard-hitting

article, published hours after Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, had pledged that a strong Israel would always ensure that the atrocities perpetrated against the Jews in the Second World War would never recur, *Maariv* said: "In the security administration, it was emphasised that the current budget does not enable the Israel Defence Force to prepare properly for war."

The officials, understood to have been given permission to break their silence by Brigadier-General Amnon Shahak, the Chief of Staff, added: "Due to lack of budget, there are shortages and gaps in a range of areas including stock gear, development, training of fighting soldiers and building future

military capability." They added: "There is no doubt that there is a giant gap between what is needed and what exists. The gap is deepening in the current situation, in which Syria is preparing military options and Iran is constantly trying to arm itself with non-conventional weapons and long-range ground-to-ground missiles."

The disclosures hit home, coming hours after Mr Netanyahu had delivered the central speech of the day, the annual Holocaust ceremony. He vowed that "never again will Jewish children be helpless". Some 1.5 million were killed by the Nazis and their memory formed the theme of this year's memorials.

Military censorship prevented reference to Israel's known arsenal of at

least 200 nuclear weapons, but one senior commentator hinted strongly that it would be a last resort to prevent any attempted Holocaust.

Yossi Lapid, a Holocaust survivor, added that Israel was the "only place in the world where Jews remain exposed to the threat of mass annihilation".

Death penalty: Palestinians who sell land to Israelis will receive the death penalty, Freiha Abu Meidin, the Palestinian Justice Minister, said yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes).

In another development, an Israeli army bulldozer demolished four illegally built Palestinian houses and a shed near the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, outside Hebron, leaving 28 Palestinians homeless.



Netanyahu: pledged to defend Jewish children

## The captains' fists are flying at 11,000ft

FROM REUTER  
IN ISTANBUL

TWO Turkish pilots undid their seatbelts and fought in the cockpit after falling out over what height they should be flying at. An autopilot maintained the jet, carrying 24 passengers, at 11,000ft.

The clash occurred when Captain Altan Tezcan misunderstood altitude instructions from the control tower 45 minutes after the Airbus 340 took off from Bangkok. As the passengers settled down, Captain Tezcan

asked Erdogan Gecim: "Are you deaf? He is telling you something and you are doing something completely different."

The rest of the flight crew had to intervene to restore order and a third, more junior pilot completed the flight to Istanbul.

Turkish Airlines said yesterday that it had sacked the pair immediately after the incident on April 4. "Their contracts have been terminated," said an airline spokesman (reuter)



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# Defender of the chef's Maginot line

*surviving  
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In part two of our series on slimmers, the restaurateur Nico Ladenis gives his opinions on those customers who say they are on a diet

**I**magine getting really excited about something you have created. You have spent time and energy, researching and working to perfect it. Then you finally present it to another person and they say "This is all very nice — but I want something different".

That is how I feel about customers who bring their diets into my restaurant. By definition, a diet is personal and should not be imposed on anyone else.

Food should be a celebration of all senses — sight and smell as well as taste. If customers wish to lose weight, they should choose right dishes that are already on the menu. That way, they will not compromise the hours of hard work and devotion my chefs put into preparing food, and will not miss out on wonderful ingredients that may not necessarily be unhealthy.

Restaurants like Chez Nico, which are at the very top, have got there because of a certain standard in cuisine. Menus have been perfected over a number of years, and by a highly skilled team of chefs. Thus, I just cannot comprehend a customer who says "I know you have put years of talent and expertise into this sauce, but I do not want it with

"I don't know what a salad is — we don't do salads"

don't do salads. What they mean is a bowl of fancy leaves. I do use certain leaves to garnish particular dishes, but I would never put them in a salad. To me, a salad is a dish of cucumbers, olives, beans, tomatoes and olive oil, eaten in cafés by the Mediterranean.

Nowadays, my position means that I do not often have

to deal with these requests myself. My maître d' and waiters have to take the flak instead. At Chez Nico, we keep a list of all the ridiculous and bizarre requests customers have made. It takes pride of place.

Once an American woman said: "I am a vegetarian, I don't eat pasta, I don't eat rice,

I don't eat bread, I don't eat fish and I don't eat vegetables. Can you cook something for me?" Another said: "I only eat fish, have you got any fish that doesn't taste of fish?"

An amusing request, which I experienced personally, was a table asking for a chocolate marquise without the Armagnac. I said: "How can you

expect me to take a fundamental ingredient out of a dish that was made yesterday and is now sitting ready to be sliced on to a plate? Sometimes I wonder if my customers take for an idiot.

Admittedly, my menus have changed over the years, and at 63, I am conscious of maintaining my health. I do not eat

as much red meat as I used to, instead I eat more fish. Naturally, I will take my customers in a similar direction. But I will not yield to the whims of any health fad or diet.

Restaurants are like the Maginot line — fortified and well-guarded. The enemy says: "I know you are strong and well defended, but just let

me advance five or ten yards."

If you agree, before long everything will collapse. I say defend, defend and do not make allowances. Customers know who you are and what your food stands for. If they do not like the menu, they should go somewhere else.

• Nico Ladenis was talking to Bridget Harrison



Nico Ladenis: "No one would go into a Rolls-Royce showroom and ask to buy a Ford Mondeo, so why should a chef expect this sort of behaviour from his customers?"



Alastair Little: "If you are coming to my restaurant, leave your diet at home"

## Dustin Hoffman made his own omelette

**A**lmost without exception, diets are an absolute pain for restaurants. I can understand someone who wants to lose weight. The soundest advice I would give is eat or drink less. But I cannot understand the concept of going to a restaurant and *paying* not to eat. It turns the whole purpose of a restaurant on its head.

So many diets today are founded in ridiculous faddism. They fly in the face of good food, are a nightmare for chefs, and in some cases seem positively harmful.

A few weeks ago, Dustin Hoffman went into Kensington Place, where my flatmate Rowley Leigh is head chef, and ordered an egg white omelette. On hearing the order, Rowley said he just could not bear to make it. So the waitress told Dustin that the chef was having trouble with his request. Moments later, Dustin appeared in the kitchen saying: "I understand you are having problems with the concept of my order — let me help out." No doubt some dietician in Los Angeles has decreed that this is what you should eat and is making millions of dollars with a new bestseller. The result must have tasted like fried savoury meringue.

Often people seem to forget that chefs go to a great deal of trouble to prepare their food. Thought, skill and ego go into menus. In good restaurants there will be five or six — or in some cases 20 — guys and girls slaving away in the kitchen. It is simply soul-destroying when people take one look at the menu and say they cannot eat this and they cannot eat that because they are on a diet.

The most common antic of a dieter is to order a dish and not touch it, or ask for particular specifications — a salad with

Customer requests can be very disruptive. One lunch-time, they brought the kitchen to a standstill with 14 variations of a salad, says Alastair Little

no dressing, the meat with no sauce, or, like Dustin Hoffman, demand something that isn't even on the menu. We try to accommodate all requests within reason.

My dishes fall into two categories — those that can be cooked instantaneously, so variations are quite easy, and those that have been prepared earlier in which the ingredients are already included. I have been asked to serve a boeuf bourguignon without the red wine, or the beef. This is asking for the impossible.

**S**alads are easier. I like to serve mine dressed, but, within reason I'll adapt dressings, or leave them out altogether. I used to object violently when customers asked for meat with sauce on the side. I would place the meat at one end of the plate and the sauce at the other. Now I send the sauce in a pot to see if they will be able to resist it.

Working to customers' specifications can be very disruptive. When I worked at 192, I developed a seasonal salad for customers who did not want a heavy meal at lunch-time. On one occasion, the salad consisted of French beans, avocado and bacon in a big bowl of leaves. Somehow, the customers managed to order 14 different variations on this — "hold the beans, no dressing", "with beans but no avocado", "dressing but no beans or avocado". They brought the kitchen to a standstill. Since then, I have

put my foot down. If customers want variations, requests should be simple.

Over the past five years, vegetarianism has been the biggest trend. I tried to resist adapting menus because I love meat. I argued that there were lots of starters and tasty vegetables, without having to put on a non-meat main course. Nowadays most of our menus offer a good choice for vegetarians.

If I can take meat out of a dish without vastly compromising it I will. What angers me are vegetarians who are looking for meat substitutes, and expect something by Linda McCartney. Minced Quorn is a classic example. To me, it looks like high-class cat litter.

Another big dieting fad is fat-free, which I find horrifying. I use gallons of olive oil a week, which, luckily, is now considered to be healthy. Meat without

fat is an abomination. We don't mind cutting the fat off afterwards, but meat needs to be cooked in fat to taste any good.

Low salt is a frequent request. We now under-season most dishes, and then finish up to individual requirements. Genuine medical needs are bound up with these trends, but I wonder how many are based on institutional faddism.

I do sympathise with customers who try to avoid eating a huge meal at lunch-time, so I do an optional set menu of two starters and a coffee, which is terribly popular. But evenings are a completely different matter. If you are going to trek into Soho, then you are coming for a meal and an occasion. If you are not going to eat, why go out to dinner?

Food is sensual and a pleasure — it is the most fun you can have with your clothes on. If you are coming to my restaurant, have everything you really want, feel deliciously guilty about it — and leave your diet at home.

• Alastair Little was talking to Bridget Harrison

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David Hockney in his London studio, where Roy Strong went for lunch. "Original is the only word one could ever apply to him," Strong says. "I couldn't help loving him and admiring his quick logic and unique perception."

# I taste the delights of another world

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

## A free child ticket for Alton Towers

The Times, in association with Alton Towers, offers you the chance to get a free child ticket to Britain's most popular theme park. You can enjoy Ripsaw, a new white-knuckle ride which joins the awesome Nemesis, Corkscrew and Black Hole. There is another new attraction, Nickelodeon "Outta" Control, an interactive television adventure where children become the stars. There are also more than 25 rides and attractions suitable for under-eights including Old MacDonald's farm and an ice show by Peter Rabbit and his friends.

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THE TIMES



TOKEN 2

CHANGING TIMES



TOKEN 2

tress Irene Worth extolling the virtues of Fortuny dresses, which she always wore for solo performances, and Diana Cooper arriving with a tiny dog which she deposited on her lap during lunch. I remember Cecil cursing Edith Siwell, who had been a guest the last time the Queen Mother had come, and whose arrival had been heralded by an ambulance, a gangplank and male nurse outriders guiding her wheelchair to rest. Looking back I was an innocent, learning the ropes of a scene in which one either sank or swam. I swam.

Before I left for London Cecil, chortling a line or two of *Well Gather Lilles*, took his secateurs and strolled round the garden piling my arms high with huge branches of lillies. I sat in the train engulfed in its fragrance, a happy man. I had glimpsed another world and had drunk deep of its delights.

January 29, 1969  
David Hockney's studio is one of those late-Victorian stucco terraces in Notting Hill Gate.

Day Two of our series: partying through the Sixties and Seventies

1967

I was made Director of the National Portrait Gallery and suddenly I was thrown into a whole new world. This was the period when Lady Antonia Fraser was making her mark as a writer and also as a hostess, presiding over gatherings at her house in Campden Hill Square. Her gatherings

followed the accepted pattern, beginning with a dinner, after which a second tide of guests arrived. It was difficult to get to bed much before 1am and it is hardly surprising that a recurring theme in my diary for this year is one recording tiredness and exhaustion. Other key exponents of this kind of entertainment were George Weidenfeld and Ann Fleming. All were sooner or later to recruit me to their ranks. One was at full pelt.

Lunch parties even then seemed to belong to another age. They betokened arriving at 12.45pm and not leaving until nearly three. They epitomised leisure, an elegance and an intimacy. Usually they were of about eight or two tables of eight, rarely more. Cecil [Beaum] always gave lunches. They were in impeccable taste. I went to many but the most memorable occurred this year on April 10 when I was bidden to meet the Queen Mother.

The Queen Mother always meets the same old boring people," Cecil drawled down the telephone, "so I'm asking you." My record of it is deficient but I recall the ac-

I don't think that I'd ever before encountered anyone so overtly homosexual. Against one wall rested two blown-up photographs of Peter, one in bikini underpants, the other in jeans with his flies undone. All over the floor were scattered magazines with male nudes.

He's rather large and square, getting fat in fact, and somehow terribly conscious of it. The whole time I was there he kept on feeling beneath his shirt as though checking up on the expansion of the wedges. We sat down in his kitchen, together with his slim blond American boyfriend Peter Schlesinger, and lunched off consommé, toast and pâté washed down with red wine. After it we went into the studio.

Avid picked one up and complained how it had been seized by the Customs and then returned. On its cover was stamped "Nudes—semi-erect". He agreed to draw Fred Ashton for me. The phone rang. It was a Spanish waiter who wanted to come round and strip for him to draw. The time had come to leave.

December 3, 1969  
Saw Annigoni again at the Palace. The portrait is almost finished. For a moment it looked dull and then Hugh uttered the word, "vamp". Annigoni seized a wide brush and dipped it in the water of a flower vase and applied it to the picture as we shrieked "Marvelous".

March 31, 1969  
I went with Hugh Leggett, the donor, to Annigoni's studio at

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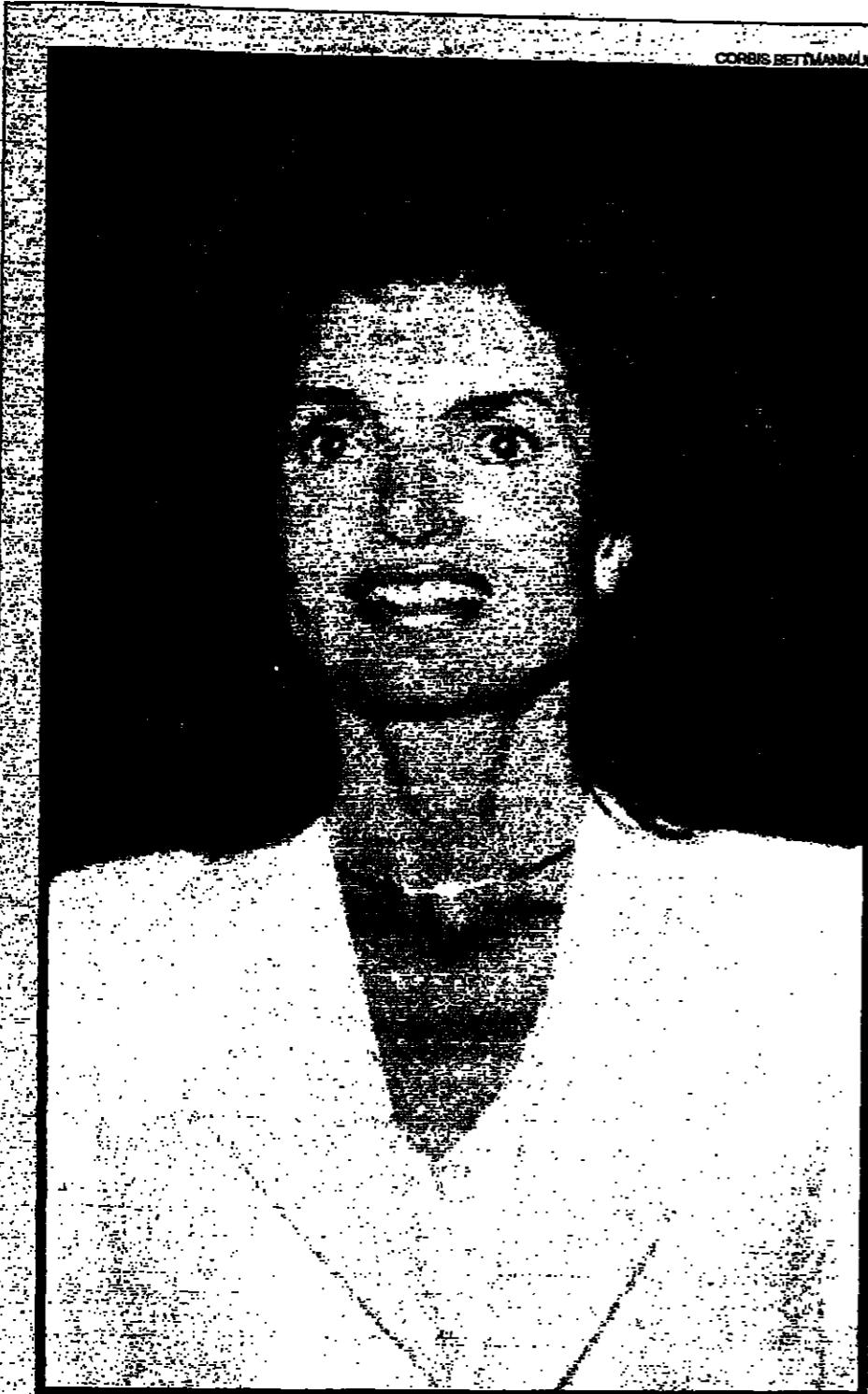
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Jackie Onassis is in her early forties — she has the hands of an old woman



George Weidenfeld is larger-than-life and sees a book in everyone he claps eyes on



Cecil piled my arms high with huge branches of lilac. I was a happy man

January 6, 1970

The Field of Cloth of Gold Ball was the event of the winter season. Lady Antonia Fraser presided as the Queen of the Field. The evening started with a buffet at her house in Campden Hill Square, where the costumed assembled. I had exploited my new-found friendship with the opera at the Coliseum and went dressed as a Regency antiquarian carrying a large folder with a label on its outside reading: *An Exact Inquiry Concerning the Antiquities of the Field of Cloth of Gold*. That soon proved to be a sorry burden. But the green velvet jacket with gold frogging, satin knee breeches, and black stockings looked fetching enough.

for King Street, where the Great Rooms had been dressed overall by David Milner, huge sixteenth-century tapestries swagged along the walls which, much to my surprise, had been lent by John Lewis. So it all raved on amidst the gloom but the prize of the evening must go to the wicked David Carruth. There he stood engulfed in artificial grass with two plastic bumblebees pinned as nipples. When I asked him what he was he replied: "The Field."

February 25, 1970

The day of the unveiling of the Annigoni portrait of the Queen at last came. It began very simply with me arriving early to check that everything was in order. Nothing, however, had quite prepared me for the screaming mob of journalists that fell through the Gallery doors when they were opened. For an hour it was nothing but cameras flashing. Annigoni was a positive saint as he posed for them, even agreeing to stand on a chair by the picture and frankly looking somewhat idiotic.

Lord Kenyon and I met the Queen and escorted her amidst a barrage of flashing camera lights, up to her own portrait. The newsreel cameras whirred while she stood and looked at herself, commenting on how varnishing had improved the picture and then she said: "It looks very different with a frame." A masterstroke of evasion.

June 16, 1970

Diana Cooper is one of the few originals that I have ever met. Somehow she has a timeless

magic which cuts across the generations and makes differences in age irrelevant. I'd put her high on my list of the least snobbish people I have ever met. She was making one of her specials when I arrived, that lethal mix of vodka, grapefruit juice and mint of which I have learned to beware. Before I could say anything she grabbed me by the arm saying: "Such a disaster. At 12.30pm I went to check that everything was in order and found that the cook was coming tomorrow and..." she added with a grimace, "such a distinguished luncheon party." Just how distinguished was shortly to emerge as the guests assembled.

The result of this catastrophe was that the party ended up in the Maida Vale Steakhouse. The manager was taken aback by this invasion headed by Diana and Harold Macmillan, or "Horse" as she calls him, bent double over a stick, deaf and complaining of a cataract. The manager said that he was used to having all the pop stars but not the politicians. So there we were, an ex-Prime Minister, a marquess and marchioness (Salisbury) wearing a straw hat engulfed in white net, an ex-American ambassador, myself and Diana Phillips, who had just bought a foot (sic) by Rubens in the Portobello Road for £25. By the evening news of this bizarre gathering had reached the *Evening Standard*. What it showed was that Diana was unsinkable.

June 30, 1970

The most brilliant event of the season must have been the



Antonia Fraser looked like the Statue of Liberty

ball at Windsor in Ascot week to celebrate the Queen Mother's, Lord Mountbatten's and the Duke of Gloucester's seventieth birthdays. Ted Heath [the Prime Minister], after saying that he was definitely not going, did, and made a triumphal entry. He was told, kissed by the duchesses. The fete, given at Kelvedon by the Channons, came next, to

which I drove across country with Julia Trevelyan Oman from Glyndebourne.

A great pavilion had been built on to the back of the house with polythene windows, a massive use of glistening tinfoil, white balloons and psychedelic lighting effects. One's ears were obliterated by the pop music. Inside the house was banked with sweet-smelling white lilies.

Seven hundred and fifty guests gobbled salad, strawberries and cream, danced, talked and strolled from 10.30pm until dawn. Just about everyone was there.

March 2, 1971

Elizabeth Longford asked me to a small drinks party for Prince Charles. There were about a dozen of us. Antonia was there, pretty beyond belief, with Frank Longford, Martin and Gay Charteris, the odd deb girl and the writer Marina Warner in applique hot-pants beneath a coat which went down to her ankles. All Marina could think of was that HRH was 22 and had he been to bed with anyone? He's a pleasant young man, earnest, with a boyish grin and a non-sophisticated sense of humour, prankish, thoughtful, kind and shy. I couldn't help being impressed by his sheer "niceness".

March 24, 1971

Buckingham Palace en fete. This was the day of the great fete at Buckingham Palace arranged by Patrick Plunket, a party of a new kind bringing into the royal orbit all sorts and conditions of people they never usually bothered about. The royals were there in force and we were received by the Queen, Charles and Anne, Princess Margaret and Tony, Princess Alexandra and the Queen Mother. The latter, sweet as always, was in her inevitable tara and Hartnell crinoline, one of white net sprinkled with sequins which, however, had seen better days. Princess Alexandra hauled me off to see the Canaletto drawings. Patrick Plunket in black velvet was preening himself on the success of it all, the whole event based on what the Spanish and French embassies did. Not before time it replaced the cocktail party, and what was clear was that everybody likes an excuse to dress up.

New Year's Day, 1972

Harold Acton's villa, La Pietra, has a number, 120, and is on the Via Bolognese as one leaves Florence. I felt as though I was walking into a setting from a novel by Henry James, or perhaps Edith Wharton. There were vast rooms whose walls were painted a grubby cream stuffed with Italian primitives, chairs of faded, ragged velvet, mottled mirrors, pieces of classical sculpture and dusty curtains swagged back and secured by gauzy tassels. And, of course, every other thing was gilt. All right, one had to admit that it was a little run-down, but it was definitely grand.

The dining room must be unique for being hung seemingly entirely with "Last Suppers". Lunch consisted of a risotto of rognoncini, turkey with artichokes and soggy

sprouts, salad and cream cheese, followed by a vast chocolate soufflé.

The conversation was louche and flowed thick and fast, thriving on gossip and scandal. It began with a story about Mrs Keppel, Edward VII's mistress, arriving for lunch somewhere in Italy, demanding gin and finding there was none, sending her chauffeur to buy it. From there it moved on to Violet Trefusis: no, she had not been the King's mistress, but she had had a tumble with him on the sofa. Wallis Simpson, she said, owed her hold over the Duke of Windsor to the fact that she had learned the "Chinese clutch" in Shanghai. Notice the way, she used to say, that he couldn't keep his eyes off her, reducing himself to the level of ventriloquist's dummy. And so it ran on.

March 28, 1973

"Who could do it, even in the eighteenth century?" Jack Plumb remarked to me as 80 people sat down to dinner at Cleve Lodge. George and Sandra Weidenfeld being seemingly together again for a brief period. These occasions always begin in the hall with drinks, move on into the dining room and thence to the library. The decor of the place cannot be described as anything other than expensive but impersonal, except for the library which reflects George's genuine interest in his subject. He's an extraordinary, larger-than-life man, with a brilliant intellect, seeing a book in practically everyone he claps eyes on. I had the misfortune to be placed next to Mrs Peter Quennell, who spent most of the dinner denouncing everyone else at the table and screaming about the ceiling spotlight which fell upon her.

June 26, 1972

"Who could do it, even in the eighteenth century?" Jack Plumb remarked to me as 80 people sat down to dinner at Cleve Lodge. George and Sandra Weidenfeld being seemingly together again for a brief period. These occasions always begin in the hall with drinks, move on into the dining room and thence to the library. The decor of the place cannot be described as anything other than expensive but impersonal, except for the library which reflects George's genuine interest in his subject. He's an extraordinary, larger-than-life man, with a brilliant intellect, seeing a book in practically everyone he claps eyes on. I had the misfortune to be placed next to Mrs Peter Quennell, who spent most of the dinner denouncing everyone else at the table and screaming about the ceiling spotlight which fell upon her.

August 9, 1972

Lunch at the Café Royal with the Wrightsmans and Jackie Kennedy Onassis. She's in her early forties with a cute, slightly lined, Sixties face, dipped hair and the hands of an old woman, the flesh withered with enormous knuckles, today covered with sticking-plaster. Nervous, with eyes popping, she moved with almost teenage animation. The impression was of an intelligent, rich woman, bored with life marooned on a Greek island, envious of the Wrightsmans' London lifestyle and longing for New York. In conversation, she was a receiver rather than a giver.

January 30, 1973

We were bidden to dinner with Olive and Denis Hamilton given in honour of Harold Macmillan and turned out to be the only other guests. I suppose it was important and fascinating to meet the former prime minister, but I think that I would have to place him as one of the rudest men that I

have ever met. He looks exactly like his own cartoons. Now about 80 I would have thought, he's a bit geriatric with a runny nose, and his speech is a stream of consciousness interspersed with occasional lucid flashes. I was swatted down regularly if I ever attempted to open my mouth, never allowed to contribute one thing to the conversation, and if I even began a sentence he interrupted it. He was caricature arch-reactuary, enough to make me want to vomit.

Then there was Michael Foot and his wife, God, what doctrinaire socialists! After dinner the two of them were unleashed, they harangued us, raising his voice as though addressing a revolutionary mob. Poor Ninian Ryan, the benign American millionaire, one sensed her shudder. And then, mercifully, there was Arnold Goodman.

Lord Goodman is huge, loving and logical. He is a fascinating character, contained, infinitely human and infinitely devious. He never contradicts himself and one can't help being struck by the utter uniqueness of the person, a jovial mound with huge hands, endlessly fiddling and taking on and off his half-moon glasses. He never raises his voice and there is always a twinkle in his eye. He never either abuses anyone or loses his sense of humour. There was a furious, breathless row about the arts, the Fools on the old socialist theme of suppressed talent through lack of opportunity. They believed that there were thousands of undiscovered artists, poets and writers. There had been Arnold argued, an explosion of interest and appreciation of the arts but what was striking about it was the fact that it hadn't produced this galaxy of new talent. Where, he asked, were all these new composers and painters and writers?

• Extracted from *The Roy Strong Diaries 1967-1987*, by Roy Strong, to be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson on May 12. £30. © 1997 Roy Strong

• Times readers can buy *The Roy Strong Diaries 1967-1987* (a saving of £2 on the publisher's recommended price) by calling The Times Bookshop on 0900 134 459

## TOMORROW

*Terence Conran is a man of achievement, yet no intellectual. I suppose I make him feel inferior*

Roy Strong on his V&A years

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■ VISUAL ART 1  
The passion to possess: the mania that drives collectors is showcased around London



■ VISUAL ART 2  
Prophet in the wilderness: Francisco Clemente reveals the fruits of his 51-day Indian sojourn



■ CD CHOICE  
Renata Scotti's superb recording of *Madam Butterfly* is on Michael Kennedy's Top Ten list



■ TOMORROW  
What's hot this summer: *Times* critics choose the tickets you won't want to miss in the coming season



Andrea Fraser's list (centre) of the items housed in one particular room of the Wallace Collection at Hertford House, drawn up by the obsessive Lady Wallace a century ago

## Heirlooms of the dogged

■ VISUAL ART: Richard Cork joins the Photographers' Gallery's London-wide celebration of the collector's eccentric passion

The mania for collecting knows no limits. Nothing, it seems, is too banal, ephemeral or just plain tacky to escape the devouring, dedicated hoarder. And the Photographers' Gallery has hit on an enterprising way of examining the addiction. Its new show invades an extraordinary variety of object-hungry premises all over central London, from the august dignity of the British Museum and the Wallace Collection to brash, consumerist temples such as Habitat and Selfridges.

The weirdness begins at the gallery's own premises, where curator Neil Cummings has assembled a heady array of obsessives. Ming de Nasty and Mo Wilson show large colour portraits of local collectors in the Walsall area. They look sane enough, but the images surrounding them baffle the full, bizarre extent of their compulsive desires.

One young woman seems about to be engulfed in an avalanche of Marilyn Monroe pictures, laughing, pouting and blowing Hollywood kisses from every inch of the claustrophobic room around her. The contrast between the apparent normality of the collectors and the blatant eccentricity of their devotion is often unsettling in itself. So is the calm, methodical way Jim Sillivan goes about amassing his silk collection. Hundreds of back-lit images testify to his tireless resolve: photographing car tyres, urinals, washing machines and even cinema seats like an overzealous detective.

Taking the show beyond the gal-

lery and into institutions already bursting with possessions of their own is a risky tactic. The artist's intervention may be overwhelmed by the exhibits already displayed there, and at the Hunterian Museum the danger is all too clear. The bones, fountains and other macabre specimens gathered by the 18th-century surgeon John Hunter are mesmerising enough to distract us from Susan Hiller's showcase. But her collection of pictures, supposedly made by an eccentric Londoner called Alfie West, adds up to an outlandish ensemble.

For all his dross, West was committed to as much surgical precision as Hunter as he spent his spare time cutting and splicing human hair. One leaf-like offering is, according to a proud inscription in childish writing, a single tendril "split into 18 parts". Flanked by Hunterian bric-a-brac on one side, and the Tooth Museum on the other, Hiller's findings blend in only too well with their spooky location.

Over at the Wallace Collection, though, Andrea Fraser's work is utterly at variance with the sensuous profusion of Bouchers, Fragonards and Watteaus. She has uncovered an exhaustive inventory of Hertford House's contents drawn up by Lady Wallace in 1890. Amelie-Julie-Charlotte Wallace was a redoubtable woman. She ensured that everything,

including the "mahogany towel horse" in the one-time billiards room, was itemised with curatorial care.

Fraser has printed out the lists and displayed each of them in its appropriate room. They show how domestic the house was before its transformation, in 1897, into a public museum. The resplendent gallery where Bonington and Delacroix canvases now hang was once the housekeeper's room, and Lady Wallace even insisted that its "two pieces of linoleum" appeared on the list.

Fraser plays an archaeological role, peeling back the layers of history and disclosing how a great collection developed. She also says something about the diligence of a wealthy woman determined to hold on to all her possessions, however insignificant they may now appear.

After a while, though, the lists fall foul of the law of diminishing returns. They make similar points over and over again, like the showcase Fred Wilson has installed in the British Museum's Egyptian gallery. The dusty plinths, boxes and labels retrieved from storage once played an important part in determining how the exhibits were understood by visitors. But Wilson overplays his hand by assembling too many of these melancholy remains.

Mercifully, Richard Wentworth has made a far more stimulating intervention in the same collection.

His subversive manoeuvres end up making us laugh at the pretensions of everything else on view in Habitat.

Finally, at Selfridges, Neil Cummings and Marynia Lewandowska have produced a specially commissioned guide called *Browse*, inviting us to think about the correspondences between the British Museum and the largest building ever designed as a single shop.

What the two places share, say the artists, are "encyclopaedic ambitions and complex layout", deployed on the grand scale to "structure our dreams and deepest desires". In order to back up their argument, the brochure carries a deliberately teasing set of illustrations. A four-way locking, silent-action cat flap (unknown provenance, c.1995) is placed alongside a sacred bronze cat (Egypt, after 600 BC). And a Premier League collection of "votive figures" (China, c.1996-97) is shown near a row of mumiform tomb figures (c. New Kingdom).

The principal difference between them, of course, centres on their availability and quality. The original British Museum pieces are not for sale, and they are far more aesthetically impressive than the Selfridges wares. All the same, browsing is an activity increasingly fostered in both types of building, and the dramatic recent growth of the gallery shop ensures that collectors can now buy replicas of even the rarest and most dubious historical relics. Cultural tourism is his real target, and

■ Collected runs until June 21

■ AROUND THE LONDON GLOBE  
IN 1995 Francisco Clemente set himself like a prophet in the wilderness, to spend 51 days on Mount Abu in north-west India. He painted a large watercolour each day, and this extended set is now on display at Anthony D'Offay.

Anthony D'Offay, 51 Dering Street, London W1 (071-499 4100) until May 31

■ THE speedy jump from obscurity to fame does not seem to have harmed Gillian Wearing's work. It seems a pity, however, to show her so soon again. The Chisenhale Gallery may insist that this is the first solo show in a public gallery, but familiarity can only undermine an excellent piece. The huge single screen shows a series of short films which, with greater sophistication and simplicity, still carry the Wearing atmosphere like a smelly, damp blanket. It is upsetting and effective to see and hear an apparently innocent adolescent or child's thought coming out of the synchronised lips of an adult. But disgust turns to wonder at this voyeuristic quality. A boy speaks through a grown man

of his special tree house; a little girl's voice comes through an adult woman's mouth to tell of her own relationship with her mother.

Chisenhale Gallery, 64 Chisenhale Road, London E3 (0181-981 4518) until June 1

■ THERE are two conflicting tiers to the understanding and enjoyment of Keith Tyson's work. On entering the gallery, the first impression is of a mass of images, grilles, grids, painting trays and plays between two and three dimensions. Later, this gives way to talk of an "art machine" and complicated labelling "clusters" of circular paintings linked by a drawn diagrammatic network. To the left of the door move on down the stairs in a spreading rash of painted, stuck, splattered and sprayed images. It is not great to discover that, somewhat like a kitchen sink, Clemente, Tyson has painted one of these on a wooden breadboard each day, probably asking "What shall I do today?" in a bid to deliver non-meaning in the process. A painting on the far end wall, an enormous mock Picasso of a boggle-eyed artist in an extended cartoon frame, provides a hallucinatory dream, a picture within a picture.

Anthony Reynolds Gallery, 5 Dering Street, London W1 (071-491 0521) until May 31

SACHA CRADDOCK

## Young dreams of a celluloid hero

Korngold Centenary Queen Elizabeth Hall

Performances from Jacqueline Miura, an alert Lieder singer possessed of a glowing mezzo, and the pianist Philip White.

White was also the moving force behind the first London performance of Korngold's one-act opera *Der Ring des Polykrates* (1916), given in concert with piano accompaniment. It needed an orchestra. Korngold was a deft orchestrator, and instrumental colour was what this under-characterised music lacked, even though White handled the taxing piano reduction well.

This programme included only one of the late works, the song *Sonne für Vienna*, a schmaltz hymn of tribute to the war-damaged city of Korngold's youth, in which the influence of Hollywood is all too apparent. But if the old jibe about "more corn than gold" applies here, gold is certainly to be found in some of the teenage genius's songs. The sophisticated *Schneeglöckchen* has an extraordinary bittersweet quality. *Nachwanderer* is strangely unsettling, and the *Liebesbriefchen* is a beautiful outpouring of emotion. The later three songs from Op 18 are characterised by a floating non-tonality, and the modal-sounding *Shakespearian Songs* (Op 31), heard here in public for the first time since 1941, are affecting in their simplicity.

All received idiomatic per-

JOHN ALLISON

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

MICHAEL KENNEDY'S TOP TEN

**M**usic recordings are governed by their influence on the development of my taste and because the performances still seem unsurpassed.

To start with, my youthful excitement in discovering Beethoven is epitomised in the *Archduke Trio* performed in 1928 by Corot, Thibaud and Casals (EMI CDH 7 61024-2, £10.49).

The 1932 recording of Elgar's Violin Concerto is chosen not so much for the 16-year-old Yehudi Menuhin's playing, but for Elgar's poetic conducting of the LSO. (EMI CDC 5 55221-2, £15.99).

Ralph Vaughan Williams conducting his Fourth Symphony with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in 1937 is a performance of astonishing vitality and drama. (Decca CDAX 301, £10.49).

I have never forgotten hearing Ginette Neveu's intense performance of Sibelius's Violin Concerto a few days before she died in 1942. She recorded with the Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Walter Susskind in 1945 (EMI CDH 7 61011-2, £10.49).

A lifelong love of Richard Strauss was kindled by extracts from *Der Rosenkavalier* recorded in Vienna in 1933 by Lotte Lehmann, Maria Olcowska, Elisabeth Schumann and Richard Mayr; with the Vienna Philharmonic conducted by Robert Heger. (Pearl GEMM CDS 3365, £22.49).

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop, FREEPOST, SC0081, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 4988; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

■ Next Saturday on Radio 3 (8pm): A Poulenc song survey



This leads me to the performance of Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* in Vienna on the composer's 80th birthday in 1944. Irmgard Seefried is incandescent as the Composer, Maria Rreming a radiant Ariadne. Karl Bohm conducts (Preiser 9027, £14.49).

I cannot imagine any record collection without Wilhelm Furtwängler conducting the Philharmonia in *Tristan und Isolde*, with Kirsten Flagstad and Ludwig Suthaus (EMI CDS 47524, £61.99).

Also must is Bruno Walter's 1952 recording of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with Kathleen Ferrier and Julius Patzak. Ferrier, already a dying woman, was transfigured by the music (Decca 414 194-2, £15.49).

Sir John Barbirolli's 1966 Rome recording of Puccini's *Madam Butterfly* with Renata Scotti and Carlo Bergonzi has insights which I find nowhere else. Scotti responds with one of the finest Puccini performances on disc (EMI CMS 7 69544-2, £19.99).

Finally, Karajan's 1956 recording of Verdi's *Falstaff* has lightness of touch and precision of ensemble (EMI CDS 7 49668-2, £31.99).

recording, with free delivery, to The Times Music Shop, FREEPOST, SC0081, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 4988; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

■ Next Saturday on Radio 3 (8pm): A Poulenc song survey

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# THE TIMES ARTS



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VENUE: Opera tonight at the Queen's Theatre



**CHOICE 2**  
Chekhov's *Three Sisters* inspires a new dance from Aletta Collins

VENUE: Tonight at the Place Theatre

**CINEMA** Why is the Oscar-winning *Kolya* so different? Carol Allen meets the men behind it

# Prague springs a surprise

The award of this year's Best Foreign Film Oscar to the Czech film *Kolya* was a substantial achievement on a number of fronts. It was the first Academy Award for the young Czech Republic, and the first to the Czech people for nearly 30 years since Jiri Menzel's *Closely Observed Trains*. It also made its young director, Jan Sverák, the best-known Czech filmmaker since Menzel, Forman and Passer in the 1960s. And, curiously, it marked the first time that the best foreign film award had gone to a film with an English-speaking producer: Eric Abraham.

He and Sverák met when they both served on the jury of the 1992 Karlovy Vary film festival in Czechoslovakia. "Kolya" started as a couple of pages of outline which Jan sent me in 1994-95," Abraham says. "I was involved from the very early stages, right through the scripting. We wanted to keep it free of the compromises that seem to dog international co-productions, make it intelligible in an audience outside the Czech Republic without being patronising to the Czechs themselves. I acted as the foreign barometer."

The story deals with an irresponsible middle-aged bachelor who becomes the reluctant "adoptive" father of a five-year-old Russian boy, and takes place during the year leading up to the Velvet Revolution of 1989. When he came to shoot the film, Sverák found he was effectively making a period piece. Since the return of capitalism much has changed in Prague: the cars on the streets, the buildings, now freshly painted and adorned with advertising; even the design of a carton of milk.

"There's no difference if you are shooting Prague before the revolution six years ago or if you are trying to create Prague during the Middle Ages," Sverák says. "It is effectively an historical movie."

The screenplay was written by Sverák's father, Zdenek, who also plays the leading role. His co-star is a little boy called Andrej Chalimov, found after an extensive hunt through Moscow kindergartens. Like his character, he speaks only Russian. "I wanted to cast a real Russian boy," Sverák Jr says, "because you can see that he's confused and lost; he has no idea what Paris is going about when he's talking to him in Czech."



United motion: Jan Sverák, Eric Abraham and Zdenek Sverák, the two Czechs and a Briton who made *Kolya*

Like most Czechs, the Sveráks also speak Russian, which they learnt under the occupation. But the boy had never acted before, and when filming began he just sat in the middle of the set, grinning at the camera. It was up to Sverák Sr to teach him the tricks of the trade. "I told him: 'Imagine that you are alone in this strange city without friends and without parents', and I saw in his eyes that he really imagined this and he was excellent. After shooting I shook his small hand and told him, 'You are an actor now'."

This is the third film on which the Sveráks have collaborated. Sverák Sr wrote and appeared in *Elementary School*, for which his son received an Oscar nomination, and was co-writer

of *Accumulator 1*. "They are best friends," Abraham says. "They have the kind of relationship we would all have liked to have had with our fathers."

The film has broken box office records in its own country, where it has done twice as much business as its nearest rival, *Independence Day*. Since opening in America in January it has grossed, more than \$4 million, a remarkable achievement for a foreign language film.

"It's a very universal tale of two individuals from different backgrounds, different generations, different cultures, who have to learn to live

with each other and ultimately come to love each other," explains Abraham. "A little boy makes a man in his mid-fifties realise the rewards that come with taking on the commitment of another human being. I think everyone can relate to that."

Abraham and Sverák Jr are currently working together on several possible projects, including a new screenplay by the director's father to be made in English. This raises the possibility that Jan Sverák, who was a 25-year-old film student when the Velvet Revolution changed the destiny of his country, could one day find himself collecting another Oscar, this time for a mainstream commercial film.

• *Kolya* opens on Friday

**THERE** is a scene towards the end of Joe Penhall's new play where a recently split young couple meet over the hospital trolley of a mutual friend in intensive care. As Neal and Rachel argue over who should get custody of the wok, the body suddenly sits up and sings: "There may be trouble ahead ... moonlight and music ... laughter, romance ... let's face the music and dance."

Alack, I'm lying about the last bit. But I can't help feeling that a little more magic realism might have served Penhall's three-hander well. Richie does sit up, he does

have a life-saving epiphany, but singing the theme tune to a well-known insurance company advert on television is not it.

How these three got here is the cornerstone of Penhall's comedy. It is simple enough. A pair of overworked young doctors, Neal and Rachel, are visited by the sponger from hell: Richie, a hack journalist, arrives on the doorstep, having spent all his money and a lot of time being unpleasant in exotic parts of the world. Neal,

in charge of the intensive care unit of a large underfunded hospital, is his last port of call.

With his public school accent and wild stories, Paul

Robertson's prosaic Rachel would like a social life. "I

love Neal," she says half-heartedly to ward off Richie. "We've got a mortgage. It is serious."

Mike Bradwell directs with unimpeachable style. He wrings the comedy out of the characters, the angst out of his actors. But he never quite shakes the suspicion that this is anything but an elaborate piece of self-advertising by a skilled copywriter. It beats selling insurance, sure, but maybe Penhall will write a piece of theatre next time rather than an episodic soap.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

insinuates himself into their lives like a tapeworm. Stealing drugs from the hospital fridge, seducing the bored Rachel, he effortlessly abuses Neal's pliable nature. Nicolas Tenant's hapless northerner is reduced to a pin cushion of professional and personal anxieties.

Penhall cleverly sends up the way we prioritise our lives. It is the best part of what is a wholly predictable scenario. Celia Robertson's prosaic Rachel

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# I can't defend the past; I can unite the party

John Redwood says he is the only Conservative leader who could concentrate on opposing Labour

**T**here are two questions on every Conservative's mind. Why was the defeat so bad, and how can we win again after such a defeat? We must understand the past but not dwell on it. It is time for some explanation, but not for re-examination. We all feel a sense of loss. It is like being at the bedside when a well-loved relative has been badly hurt. It doesn't help to hurl insults or abuse the doctors.

The opinion polls turned out this time to be deadly accurate. There is no reason to doubt what they were telling us over the whole five years of the Parliament. They were confirmed in every by-election, by council elections and by the European Parliament elections. All told us the same story. We lost massive support at the end of 1992 when Britain was thrown out of the European exchange-rate mechanism, and we never found a way of recovering that support. The public doubted the Government's competence because the main economic policy went wrong. Then they doubted the Government's word, because taxes had to go up to pay for the damage done by the recession.

I wanted the Government to apologise for this mistake, and to keep VAT down, as promised in the 1992 election. I was unsuccessful in making my case within government. So in 1995 when John Major resigned, I made a difficult decision to give up my Cabinet job. I tried to shock the Government into a change of tone, style and policy. I hoped that it would generate the change we needed to have a chance of winning the general election. We went up in the polls during that leadership contest, and returned to the original levels only after I had lost.

Today I want to offer the Conservative Party hope for the future. I am the only Conservative likely to run in this leadership election who could face Tony Blair across the dispatch box and put down endless difficult questions about the 1992-97 Government. I do not have to defend past mistakes, because I resigned from that Government. I would be able to point the Conservative Party firmly towards the future, and concentrate on opposing.

I have spent time considering whether I could do the job of leading the party, and how I would do it. It will not be easy. It requires some goodwill from all members of the parliamentary and the wider party. We need to develop the will to win, to put in the work that is needed in every town, village and street. We need to remember why we joined Conservative politics in the first place. After the battering of recent years, we need to be reminded that politics can be enjoyable and rewarding.

Could I unite this party of ours? Yes I could. In many ways our party is more united today than throughout the

long years of government. Stephen Dorrell and I do not disagree about economic policy in the way that the "wets" and "dries" did in the 1980s. Ken Clarke and I do not disagree about the need for excellence in our schools and hospitals, with the bills met by the taxpayer. The only issue that causes us strains is the issue of Europe.

In government, the lack of a clear line on Europe pulled the party apart. Everyone knew the country was on the threshold of major decisions, but no one could be sure how the Government would approach those decisions. This encouraged



In sadness at the size of our defeat, in humility at the verdict of the people, but with optimism for the future, I put myself forward for the leadership

aged a mutual suspicion between ministers and the rest of the party. The task of the Leader of the Opposition will be to find the common ground, those common principles which can unite us. I will carry the parliamentary party with me through regular meetings and discussions, so that we can oppose the unfolding federal programme of the European Union. The job of opposition is to oppose.

Europe cannot be ignored. It may be the rock on which this Labour Government breaks. It may well occupy much of the time of this Parliament, because so many major issues are now pressing for decision. We should be ready, but it should not be our obsession.

We Conservatives are united in saying that social and employment laws are better made in Britain than through the social chapter. We believe that surrendering vetoes in Amsterdam will make Britain's position weaker, not stronger. We believe that wading down the requirements for a single currency is dangerous. We must dig in against all of these likely proposals of a Labour Government. At the same time we

know that the job will be tough, and that the path will be long and hard. We must ensure that the massive loss of MPs on May Day 1997 marks the conclusion of the long run of electoral failures, and that the election of all those new councillors marks the beginning of a new run of greater electoral success.

In sadness at the size of our defeat, in humility before the verdict of the people, but with optimism for our future, I put myself forward as a candidate for the leadership of the Conservative Party. It has been and will be a great party. Its job is far from done. Britain needs a strong Opposition. In the not too distant future it will need an alternative government. There is work to do. Please help me to do it.

Anatole Kaletsky's column will appear tomorrow.

should set out a positive programme for a Europe with more jobs and more trade. We want a common market, not a common government.

We should remember that health and education dominated many a doorstep conversation, as we found in the past few weeks just how accurate those polls were. Labour has aroused unrealistic expectations about improvements in schools and hospitals. We must hold them to account, demanding they fulfil their promises. We must show some humility in the face of the electorate's judgment, and show nationally and locally that we are committed to these services.

We can rebuild through local government. Last Thursday we had some victories in councils across the country. In my constituency we won 19 of the 26 seats on offer: a victory for good council candidates. We won on a promise that more money would go directly to the schools. It was a council dominated by the Liberal Democrats and by Labour that had shortchanged schools, withholding from them some of the government grant. People saw the humbug and voted for some practical answers to the shortages of teachers and books.

I would ask every constituency to consider appointing a parliamentary spokesman or a parliamentary candidate for the new election, so that we have a political leader in every part of our country. I would ask defeated MPs who are willing to offer their help in their constituencies to begin the fightback. I will scour the country for the new talent and the younger legs we need to establish ourselves again as the most important political party in local government. By so doing we can prove our willingness to serve, and rebuild the roots of our party. The leadership must listen to the views of the membership, and use the membership's wisdom and experience fully.

**O**ur task is awesome in scale. I have not decided quickly or lightly to stand. I know that the job will be tough, and that the path will be long and hard. We must ensure that the massive loss of MPs on May Day 1997 marks the conclusion of the long run of electoral failures, and that the losers relaxing into the wild absurdity of it all. Cecil Parkinson made a magnificent joke when Jeremy Paxman — oddly bloodless, his cynical power diminished by the spirit of the night — nagged him about party "squabbles". There may not be enough of us by tomorrow", said Lord Parkinson gently, "to have a good squabble." And at dawn in his constituency, John Major giggled and said boisterously: "Oh, all right so we lost!" A sense of warmth flowed towards him from every political direction.

Down in this deep blue Tory shire (yes, Houdini Gummer survived just one odd symptom of euphoria) it is the number of people who, with that uniquely inarticulate British way of showing emotion, decided on Friday morning that it was time to worm their dogs and horses. Something to do with a sense of cleansing. I met one liberal neighbour doing just that, syringe in hand, and she dreamtly said: "There is a new spirit of warmth and unity in the air today. I can tell this, because I am feeling sorry for Michael Portillo." In cities, others reported shock at seeing beggars on the streets because "everything should have changed". An 80-year-old friend of mine, leaving the country on holiday, rang to say goodbye in case it proves to be the last time. He is not notably selfish but said "Nunc dimittis. I could go happily now. My

country feels younger, and safer." During this pantomime transformation, as networks of power and influence crumbled and cheerful kids in baseball caps invaded the grim fastnesses of 10 Downing Street, we glanced back goggily at the screens to see ourselves winning the Eurovision Song Contest by another landslide, with a song going "C'mon everybody, shine a light in every corner". Collapse of emotional nation: even Peter Mandelson must feel that it has gone far enough now.

Even Tory supporters felt it, because such moments of cathartic national feeling are for everyone. We have earned ours, after looking on with unspoken envy for two decades while other nations enjoyed historic catharses: we saw Lech Walesa and the dockworkers kneeling in prayer at the shipyard gates in Gdańsk, the Berlin Wall crumbling, Mandela's election, Vaclav Havel's first speech to a free Czechoslovakia. We felt a bit left out. Now we have had a proper political May Day revel of our own, with even the losers relaxing into the wild absurdity of it all. Cecil Parkinson made a magnificent joke when Jeremy Paxman — oddly bloodless, his cynical power diminished by the spirit of the night — nagged him about party "squabbles". There may not be enough of us by tomorrow", said Lord Parkinson gently, "to have a good squabble." And at dawn in his constituency, John Major giggled and said boisterously: "Oh, all right so we lost!" A sense of warmth flowed towards him from every political direction.

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so dangerous that you are compelled by fear to use your money on car alarms, private schools, health insurance, steel gates and burglar alarms. I think that we will pay up cheerfully — on one condition.

That is that new Labour is seen to be both effective and frugal. The Tories underestimated the sheer rage of middle Britain at their profligacies: at the billions wasted on setting up an unworkable poll tax and dismantling the exchange-rate mechanism, and dropping out again, on protracted judicial inquiries into their own seedy dishonesties, on stupid patronising government advertising, on the bureaucracy of the NHS and on propping up ideologically driven privatisations. Just as employees in a big corporation resent cuts in their own departmental budgets and their own pay while the top management keeps spending long weekends doing "target-focus-analysis" awareness training" in country hotels, so the taxpayer cannot bear arrogant profligacy in its leaders.

So far at least the new team exudes an air of energy, modesty and purpose. Frank Field's appearance at the DSS is cheering: he is not a man to throw money about. Gordon Brown has a satisfyingly dour, virtuous look about him, the sort of family lawyer you would trust with the client account. It is hard to imagine David Blunkett or Jack Straw or Clare Short ordering lavish spending on frippery charters and logos (although Harriet Harman might need watching). If Mr Mandelson's brief really has shifted from PR to progress-chasing, I hope that part of it involves stamping on schemes that look or are, wasteful.

As for meaningful early gestures, I held my breath for two days while it seemed that perhaps the leaked plan to extend the No 10 flat for the family Blair would be confirmed. It was not the incomers ignored all chunterings about tradition and the constitutional importance of the PM sleeping as close as possible to portraits of Lord Salisbury, and cheerfully decamped to No 11. Gordon Brown, we are told, doesn't much care where he sleeps or whether children are playing in his garden.

It was a good start. They made do and improvised, started from where they were dumped a dusty tradition in favour of common sense, and spent no money. Brilliant! Middle Britain expects no less. And if we now behave cheerfully about postponing the kitchen extension and binning the second-holiday brochures, we deserve no less.

50 من المصلحة



## Cheers! Now for the bill

We shall have to think twice about skiing trips or private education

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**Libby Purves**

Barry Cryer, who will this week receive the Macallan Home Farm Trust Soap Box award, says Major has talent. "He may cry and eat the wallpaper at home, but he is a picture of calm and affability as an after-dinner speaker," says Cryer. "There's a silly money about, and he may be in the top bracket in spite of having lost the election." Two of his former Cabinet colleagues, John Gummer and Michael Howard, are priced more sensibly at £5,000.

### Swap slot

THERE is a precedent to the house-swapping of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. The idea that Brown, as a bachelor Chancellor, moves into the flat above No 10 while the Blairs move *en famille* to the capacious quarters of No 11 is not unlike Benjamin Disraeli's domestic arrangements.

Elected Prime Minister in 1874, Disraeli agreed to the swap, because he had no family to house, and in those days, the flat at No 10 was larger than that at No 11. Conversely, his stout and prolific Chancellor,



Northcote and Disraeli: swapped accommodation

yesterday. I trust that they spared a thought for John Major, who had shifted all files from his Downing Street office by lunchtime on Friday. There was nowhere for him to put his clother, because Blair didn't clear out the Leader of the Opposition's office until Sunday night. The machinery of what was the Government spent a weekend locked in transit vans.

P.H.S

## Too too much

**L**ORD STERLING OF PLAISTOW has caused an agitated state of funnelling with a national newspaper advertisement for his ferry company, P&O, which suggests that a boat trip to the Continent costs less than night at the ballet.

As chairman of P&O, Lord Sterling presumably approved the advertisements, but as a governor of the Royal



*Swan Lake: but are the tickets so very expensive?*

Rupert Rhymes, the society's chief executive, complains: "It's not very good that a company which makes its money out of the tourist trade advertises against another section of tourism."

Lord Sterling was not available for comment yesterday, and the Royal Ballet was not prepared to give any reaction. But expect some vigorous protest from Sterling at forthcoming board meetings with the ballet and its school.

• Well-wishers who sent congratulatory messages to Tony Blair's Islington address should not despair if they don't receive a reply. With the advent of a new government, the local sorting office has gone on strike.

### Explosive

**I**N a triumphalist gesture, the German town of Essen is using a franking stamp featuring a smirking Zeppelin hovering over the Houses of Parliament. The stamp is to celebrate the launch of a stamp-collecting exhibition in Essen which concentrates on

images of aviation. The Zeppelin hovers over Westminster with the words "London, 1932" beneath, signifying the date of the maiden flight of the airship from Germany to London. "We've no need of being reminded how close those Jersey are to our Parliament," grumbles one old peer.

Stand up

ALTHOUGH he was never at his best on television, a relaxed John Major is seen by experts as a saleable commodity on the after-dinner speaking circuit. Those in the know suggest that he could pick up £40,000 for an evening's work, and more if he were prepared to stand on his soap box.

*I bet Kasparov could beat the computer at darts*

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## THE NEW LEADER

### Tories must lose no time in choosing a healer and a fighter

The first step the Conservatives must take if they are to prove an effective opposition is to elect an effective leader. The Tory party has grown addicted to internal debate and has been weakened by that addiction. Some may still prefer an extended period of decision-making before the candidate best suited to counter Tony Blair is chosen. But there is no time for that. And that is no bad thing.

The small band of surviving Tory MPs must make their judgment on what they know of their would-be leaders already. It would be foolish of the Tories and a forfeit of opposition duty if they were handicapped in attacking Labour over the summer because they were still fighting themselves.

Already Labour has begun moves to bring Britain within the operation of the social chapter. In the weeks ahead, and at the Amsterdam summit, the new Government could preside over significant transfers of sovereignty. It would be damaging to party and country not to subject Labour's stance to the most vigorous and pointed scrutiny.

The need to oppose, with as much coherence and force as can be mustered, makes it necessary for the Conservatives to adopt a line on the single currency which does not allow divisions to fester. As we have already argued, Kenneth Clarke's proposal to allow a free vote in the future is a formula for sectarianism in the Tory party. It is much more sensible to rule out membership for the lifetime of this Parliament. That will provide clarity now while allowing those who believe monetary union is inevitable and desirable the chance to argue for entry only after a single currency had proved it was as attractive as its advocates hoped.

Finding the right position on Europe, however, is only a necessary and very far from a sufficient pre-condition for recovering power. The party of One Nation must prove it is not just the party of one issue. To that end the emphasis placed on other policies by John Redwood is welcome. Mr Redwood's intellect should prove invaluable in plotting a Conservative recovery, but helpful as his diagnosis is, his credentials as the healer who can make the Tory party whole again, are still unproven. It is still not easy to

see how a party led by Mr Redwood could make the most of Kenneth Clarke's undoubted talents. It is also still difficult to discern how Mr Clarke himself could play the healer rather than the brawler; but both men should continue to play a vital part in keeping the Tory base broad and its punch hard.

What is required is a leader capable of welding together a Shadow Cabinet of all the talents, or at least all those who prefer the clash of arms with the enemy to the sulking in their seminar room. Michael Howard's skill with a brief and taste for the jugular combine with a private thoughtfulness to make him an impressive contender. He is, however, associated in the public's minds with the last Government's harsher face and more authoritarian instincts. He must convince the Conservative MPs who know his talents that the wider public can be made to appreciate them as well. William Hague has shown himself adept at avoiding controversy and an amiable administrator. But his lack of experience is all too visible to his colleagues and the country alike.

Peter Lilley is one of the few Conservatives whose reputation rose steadily throughout the last Parliament and who left it with a solid legislative record and the respect for those who had been his opponents. Already in the leadership campaign he has shown sensitivity to the reasons for Tory unpopularity. If the public truly registered a vote last week against aggressive Punch and Judy politics, his tone may be more appropriate than Mr Howard's. Mr Lilley has proven instincts for the freedom of individuals and markets. He has not yet, however, shown that he can quicken the pulse and inspire the unconverted.

As Robin Cook argues for flexibility in Europe, he should be tough on the obstacles to employment. Large established companies may not object publicly to interference and rules from Brussels; but obligations and loss of flexibility can be lethal for start-up and service businesses.

Yours faithfully,  
VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY  
House of Commons.  
May 5.

## VOTES ACROSS THE CHANNEL

### The French watch the British experiment with fascination

It was almost as though our election was happening in France. The British campaign was followed with intense interest across the Channel. Top commentators took up residence in London, camera crews followed the candidates all round the country, and newspapers devoted entire issues to the state of Britain today. For Tony Blair's landslide is being examined for implications far beyond these shores. On the lips of every commentator in France are three urgent questions. What kind of neighbour will a Labour-governed Britain become? What are the implications for the Left in Europe? And has a massive blockage on the path to European integration been removed?

Nowhere are the questions more insistent than in France. The French parliamentary elections are now in full swing, and all sides are trying to draw lessons from an almost simultaneous general election on the other side of the Channel. The Right jumped in first. Alain Juppé, the embattled Prime Minister desperate to kick-start a sluggish campaign, said Tony Blair had won only because he had abandoned the outdated dogma still shackling the French Socialists. He claimed Mr Blair as a fellow centrist.

The Socialists in turn have pointed to the catastrophic electoral consequences of a Government that tried to cut social security benefits and ignore the trade unions and European Union social legislation. They have warmly welcomed Labour's prompt readiness to sign the social chapter and greeted Mr Blair as "one of us." France, which has seen less of Mr Blair than British

audiences, has been bowled over by his youth, smile and freshness, as well as his ability to speak French and the discovery that he once worked as a barman in Paris. All sides want to bask in the reflected glory. What neither side is willing to admit, however, is that the British election has become such a talking point because the French election is proving extremely dull. About a third of those asked still do not know how they will vote. And the reason for this apathy is that the real issue of the campaign—European economic and monetary union—has not been discussed. No politician, except the Communists and Le Pen's National Front, is willing to question the wisdom of the sacrifices needed to achieve the Maastricht criteria.

All saw the central place Europe played in Britain's election and await Labour's decisions on EMU. Mr Blair's stance will be seized on either by the Government or the Opposition to give vital support to their embattled positions. This is as true in EU countries ruled by the Left, such as Sweden, as those ruled by the Centre-Right, such as Germany, where EMU is equally a subsumed electoral theme.

The overriding interest everywhere, however, is how Mr Blair will change Britain. The United Kingdom has been an awkward political partner but also a vibrant culture, powerfully attracting young Europeans. With a new, young leader, Britain is all the more seen as a society setting the pace for Europe. Our closest neighbours are watching with fascination.

## MAN'S JACKDAW INSTINCT

### Collections of any old rope can be documents of human interest

Man is an animal who collects things; and woman too, though she may be less obsessive about completing sets. On page 18 today Richard Cork reviews an exhibition of the collecting craze being shown across London. In national warehouses of objects, from the British Museum to Selfridges, there are displays of what collectors collect. They display the craze for assemblages from old bottles to objects made from cutting and splicing pieces, which sound more collectable than desirable.

But a thing need not be valuable or even desirable to be collectable. It can be as cheap as a beermat or as useless as the thin end of a necktie. Small boys start with football stickers and some never even move on to collect CDs. Before the silent spring of aribusiness made the pursuit illegal, collecting birds' nests combined the treasure hunt with natural history. To become collectable, a thing needs only to be widespread and to have variations to satisfy the urges to swap and classify. From these come the proliferation of flea markets and antiques programmes on television. One man's junk is another man's collectible. For a collector is just a Don Juan who has transferred his passion.

The collector's urge is usually irrational. An authentic autograph of Shakespeare is sold for many thousands of pounds. But a schoolchild can read *Hamlet* for nothing. The National Lottery paid millions for the Churchill papers, which could be made

cheaply available to scholars by facsimile and the Internet. No auctioneer can value the future of collections. The theatrical furniture and slides of urinals on show in London seem to lack purpose. But without old curiosity-shoppers such as Elias Ashmole, Viscount Fitzwilliam with his armour, and John Soane, our museums would be poorer temples of the Muse and history.

For two centuries the Yorke family of Erddig in Clwyd collected portraits of their household servants captioned with descriptive verses. To the neighbours their collection seemed eccentric. But today the Yorke pictures form a priceless record of life below stairs. Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury, was a powerful woman who saw four husbands to the grave. But she was also a great female collector. Without Bess of Hardwick Hall, we should not have the unique record of needlework and tapestries that she and her women stitched in the long evenings of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Without the collectors of the Dark Ages we should have even less of the literature of the ancient world. So much not the collectors. Neither literature nor art is injured by their follies. They may preserve the worthless, but they also protect the good. For man records his history by his trivial collections. Future generations of scholars and ordinary cultural trippers will find our collections illuminating as well as astonishing.

George Brown  
(Visiting Professor of Economics,  
University of Kazakhstan)  
2 Alston Close, Four Oaks,  
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.  
May 1.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9AN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Social chapter as a threat to 'paradise'

From Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP for Surrey South West (Conservative)

Sir, The first policy announcement by the new Labour Government is their decision to sign the European social chapter. We may expect more such concessions to satisfy and to reward the unions behind the figleaf of European co-operation.

Many supported and recognised John Major's negotiating triumph in securing British control in employment matters. They will view with dismay the potential damage to employment and future prosperity from the loss of flexibility in offering and accepting work.

Major companies from around the world have settled in Britain in confirmation of Jacques Delors's prophecy that we would become "a paradise for forward investment" without social chapter burdens.

The idea mooted by Mr Blair over this weekend of appointing Sir David Simon, a distinguished international businessman, for advice on European matters (report, Business, May 5) may be sensible, but Labour would be well advised to listen to their friends such as Gerry Robinson of Granada or Sir Terence Conran about the need to be able to offer employment without unnecessary burdens.

The greatest number of new jobs is to be found in the service sector. Tourism and hospitality, along with media and film, have become widely recognised successes. They rely on a flexible labour market.

As Robin Cook argues for flexibility in Europe, he should be tough on the obstacles to employment. Large established companies may not object publicly to interference and rules from Brussels; but obligations and loss of flexibility can be lethal for start-up and service businesses.

Yours faithfully,  
VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY  
House of Commons.  
May 5.

### Improving the NHS

From Mr John Pantall

Sir, Both the public and health professionals will eagerly await the new Government's actions on improving the NHS. Parts of the agenda are clear: streamlining the management of NHS organisations, restoring local accountability, achieving strategic integration of service developments at health authority level; simplifying the internal market.

However, a major area of ongoing change relates to the rearrangement of services, determining which hospitals are closed and which beds remain accessible.

Some of the arguments for the parallel processes of centralisation (eg of cancer services) and outreach services are strong. In many cases, however, there is no substantial evidence that either clinical or cost-effectiveness will increase as a result of creating larger, more remote centres.

For much of the work of general hospitals there is no automatic increase in effectiveness above 200 beds or so.

The process of reviewing hospital provision and consequential re-configuration must be based on an approach which is evidence-based and negotiated with all stakeholders, including the public. Otherwise the new Government is likely to go down in history as the great closer of hospitals.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN PANTALL  
Health Services Management Unit,  
Devonshire House,  
University Precinct Centre,  
Oxford Road, Manchester.  
May 2.

### Central Asian unrest

From Dr George D. Brown

Sir, I read your report today of the assassination attempt on President Emomali Rahmonov of Tajikistan, a former Soviet independent republic in Central Asia, with sorrow but not surprise.

The pseudo-democratic, newly emerging republics of this region are almost always headed by entrenched former Communists. Having seized power, they suppress political opposition while their frustrated citizens await the promised benefits of glasnost and perestroika amid worsening scenes of social squalor and violence.

In nearly seven years since independence, while the West has attempted to play with "expertise" these potentially very oil and mineral-rich republics' living standards have fallen rapidly. Growing corruption has been fuelled by non-payment of wages, hyper-inflation, high unemployment and impatience for political change.

Blatant and common misuse of presidential authority has brought fear and oppression to the region, secured by the former KGB, the police and the internal militia. Until real democracies are established in republics like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, I feel regrettably that we shall witness many more such symptoms of discontent.

George Brown  
(Visiting Professor of Economics,  
University of Kazakhstan)  
2 Alston Close, Four Oaks,  
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.  
May 1.

### Tories confronting a bleak outlook

From Mr Jeremy Catto

Sir, The Conservative Party in Parliament can derive nutriment from its current irrelevance. It needs time, intelligence and hard work to redefine its basic beliefs, in a series of exercises of the kind undertaken by R. A. Butler in 1945-49 or Margaret Thatcher in 1975-79. It is thus unfortunate that Mr Major has chosen this moment to give up the leadership, when the choice of a new leader ought to follow, not precede, at least the first stages of the party's painful reappraisal.

If, however, there has to be a new leader now, his or her primary task will be working out the fundamentals,

and not short-term and self-indulgent posturing by the usual bruisers, now reduced to featherweight, against the massive forces of their opponents. The Conservative Party does not need to exist. It has to prove that it deserves to.

Yours etc,  
JEREMY CATTO,  
Oriel College, Oxford  
May 3.

From Mr Hugo Summerson and others

Sir, Most people who lose their jobs are entitled to statutory redundancy payments based on length of service; those who work for modern, enlightened organisations will also receive help in the form of outplacement or career management. By contrast, Members of Parliament who lose their seats get a redundancy payment, but nothing more until they are of pensionable age. Some of them will not have been able to take out mortgage protection insurance, due to the unstable nature of political tenure.

If we are to expect people of probity and ability to represent our interests at Westminster, should we not, in return, make sure that they are given appropriate help when they lose office as a result of the democratic process?

Support services should be made available to the 135 Members of Parliament who have lost their jobs. Do we now expect a conversion of the Tories to adopt some form of proportional representation (which would now presumably be thought unnecessary by Labour) and which the Tories have always rubbish?

The people have clearly voted tactically to get rid of a Tory administration, and did so because there is no system of voting which can directly represent their views.

Yours truly,  
BERNARD BUCKLE,  
Flat Five, 99 High Street,  
Ventnor, Isle of Wight.

From Mr John D. Hicks

Sir, On the basis that if it is not hurting it is not working, can we now assume that finally something must be working?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN D. HICKS,  
83 Albany Road, Redruth, Cornwall.  
May 2.

### Wheel clamping on private property

From Mr Richard Harris

Sir, Leonard Jason-Lloyd ("Clamp down on highwaymen", Law, April 29) seeks to bring the criminal law to the rescue of the unfortunate motorist whose car has been clamped on private land. I believe that civil law, too, may provide such assistance.

The essence of wheel-clamping on private land is that a mutual trespass has taken place: the motorist has caused his vehicle to trespass onto land whose owners in turn (through the agency of their hired clamer) have committed trespass upon and seek to retain the vehicle until damages representing the value of inconvenience suffered by the vehicle trespass are recovered from the owner of the vehicle.

Since the owner of the land is under a duty to mitigate his own loss and not compound it, he can hardly claim damages for the time during which the vehicle is prevented from leaving his land. I also believe that the car owner could mount a claim in the civil court for damages representing the cost of hiring and/or acquiring a comparable alternative vehicle.

Such a claim would very quickly swamp the relatively nominal or modest claim for trespass damage suffered by the land owner.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRY HARRIS (solicitor),  
1st Floor, 384 Washway Road,  
Sale, Greater Manchester.  
April 29.

### Italy's monarchy

From Professor Charles Arnold-Baker

Sir, I hope that republicans blush that only now can the heir to the Italian throne enter his own country (report, May 1). They insist he is a citizen but have refused him citizens' rights as defined by the EU.

A debate on the Italian monarchy is now possible for the first time. In the 1946 plebiscite (later admitted in Parliament to have been improperly conducted) nearly 45 per cent of the total vote went for the King, but more than 65 per cent of the south, including Rome, was for monarchy because the King was the instrument of Mussolini's overthrow, and everyone knew that he had hated him.

The Italian Supreme Court was constitutionally required to declare the result of the plebiscite, but has never done so. It is therefore arguable that there is no Italian republic and that Prince Vittorio Emanuele is in fact the King of Italy.

I remain, Sir your obedient servant,  
CHARLES ARNOLD-BAKER,  
2 Paper Buildings,  
Inner Temple, EC4.  
May 2.

### Hogging the road

From Mr Robert Mudie

Sir, Why is it that the car in front of me is invariably driven by a slow, obstinate "crest-hugger", while the car behind me is driven by an impatient maniac?

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT MUDIE,  
Charcombe, Brook, Surrey.  
May 3.

### Salary levels in charity sector

From Mr Jon Prentice

Sir, Surely any comment on charity salaries (report, April 25) should recognise that, whilst all charities have employees who work within an organisation structure and need to be paid, they do still fall into two categories: "genuine" charities, which act as channels for donations to their causes, and commercial organisations which sell services and generate revenue to which the notions of "cause" and "donations" are all but irrelevant, but which happen to enjoy charitable status.



## COURT CIRCULAR

**YORK HOUSE**  
May 5: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, UNICEF, this morning visited the Community Development Centre, Miesane, Boys' Town, Cross-roads, Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa.

**Royal engagements**  
The Duke of Edinburgh will present the 1997 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion and attend a celebration of 25 years of the Templeton prize at Westminster Abbey at 6.25.

The Princess Royal, as President of *Patrons, Crime Concern*, will visit Tyneside Family Literacy Projects at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, Wallsend Road, North Shields, Tyne and Wear at 10.25 and Westgate Hill Primary School, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne at 11.30; as President, Save the Children Fund, will attend the Volunteers Reception and Newcastle City Appeal Fundraising Luncheon, The Mansion House, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear at 12.30; as President, Royal Yachting Association, will open Castlegate Quay and HM Bark *Endeavour*, Castlegate Quay Heritage Project, Riverside, Stockton-on-Tees, Co Durham at 10.30; and as Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, will attend the play "The Trial of Penn and Mead", Court 4, Royal Courts of Justice, London WC2 at 7.00.

Princess Margaret, as Grand President, St John Ambulance, will open the Brierley Hill Divisional Headquarters, Bent Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands at 2.45 and will open the Oldbury Divisional Headquarters, Birchfield Lane, Oldbury at 3.50.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Maximilien de Robespierre, French Revolution leader, Arras, 1758; Sigmund Freud, psychoanalyst, Freiberg (Priley), Czechoslovakia, 1856; Sir Thomas Morison, typographer and historian of *The Times*, Wanstead, Essex, 1889; Rudolph Valentino, film star, Castellana, Italy, 1895; Orson Welles, actor, director and producer, Kenosha, Wisconsin, 1915.

**DEATHS:** Cornelius Jansen, theologian, Ypres, 1638; Baron Alexander von Humboldt, explorer and scientist, Berlin, 1859; Henry David Thoreau, writer and naturalist, Concord, Massachusetts, 1862; Sir James Simpson, obstetrician, pioneer in the use of

## Birthdays today

Sir John Arnold, former President of the Family Division, 82; the Marquess of Bath, 65; General Sir Jeremy Blacker, 58; Mr Tony Blair, Prime Minister, 44; the Earl of Cadogan, 42; Mr Roy Cooke, former director, Coventry School Foundation, 67; Professor Rosemary Cramp, archaeologist, 68; Miss Carol Ellis, QC, consulting Editor, *The Law Reports*, 68; Sir Frank Ereira, former chief executive, Stock Exchange, Jersey, 78; Mr Robert Fell, former Jersey executive, Stock Exchange, 76.

Mr J.R. Henderson, former Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, 77; the Earl of Leicester, 61; Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mariell, 85; Miss Tracy Mulligan, fashion designer, 35; Lord Pender, 64; Miss Eleanor Plant, QC, 59; Mr Alan Ross, author, 75; Mr John S. Sadler, former chairman, Pearl Group, 67; Mr Graeme Souness, football manager, 44; the Right Rev John Taylor, former Bishop of St Albans, 68.

## Lieutenant Colonel Colin Mitchell

A Memorial Service for Lieutenant Colonel Colin Campbell Mitchell will be held at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Port Street, London SW1, on Tuesday, May 20, at 11.30am.

## Papplewick, Ascot

Papplewick celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. Old Boys are invited to apply for tickets to a Drunks Party at The Caledonian Club, Halkin Street, SW1 on Thursday, June 12, at 8.30pm. For further details of this and other celebrations, please contact the Bursar (01344 214888). *Opposite the Racecourse*, the History of the School, is now available at £12.50 (£15.00 p&p).

## Service appointments and university news are on the facing page

## Birthdays today

chloform, London, 1871; King Edward VII, reigned 1901-10; Buckingham Palace, 1910; Maurice Maeterlinck, poet and dramatist, *Postu* laureate, 1911; Nice; Maria Montessori, educationalist, Novevrijsk, The Netherlands, 1870; John Ferguson Roxburgh, founder and Headmaster of Stowe, Great Brinkhill, Buckinghamshire, 1954.

Peter Minuit, a Dutch settler, bought Manhattan Island from local Indians for trinkets worth about \$25, 1626.

The accession of King George V, 1910.

Roger Bannister ran a mile in less than four minutes at the Iffley Road track in Oxford, 1954.



Michael Davies, the architect responsible for the work, looks around the restored grotto at Pontypool.

## Shell-studded grotto is shipshape again

By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

A SHELL grotto that took a hermit seven years to create has been restored by experts in just three months.

The igloo-shaped grotto, which stands in a field at the top of a hill at Pontypool Park, South Wales, was completed in 1844 and was regularly decorated with fresh moss. Until 1980 it was used for shooting parties, one attended by Edward VII, but in recent years it had fallen victim to decay and vandalism.

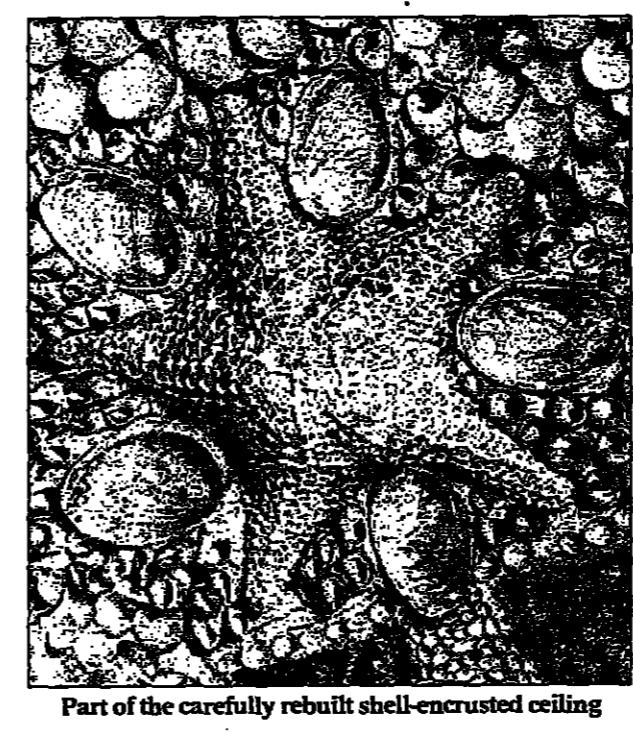
The architect for the restoration, Michael Davies, said: "Three years ago it was like a bombed site. Though the windows had been boarded up, children had made holes in the roof, and were jumping in. All the exotic shells had been taken as souvenirs but you can see where they had been from impressions left in the plaster."

Despite the losses, about 70 per cent of the shells and pebbles used remained in place, set in elaborate geometric patterns. The interior was also studded with large lumps of coal and unusual minerals. "Big rocks were just stuck in the plaster, not mechanically fixed," says Mr Davies.

As the debris was removed it exposed the original floor, made of animal bones and teeth (mainly horse and deer) laid in a pattern of arcs and stars. "The bones appear to have been broken in half to create a jagged end which could be driven into the earth's floor," Mr Davies said.

The walls of the grotto are also inset with curving tree branches, elm bosses, lumps of bark and ivy stems. "We have had to inject the ivy with syringes, using a mix of ether and resin to give it strength," Mr Davies said. "Filling every

part of the carefully rebuilt shell-encrusted ceiling



tiny little worm hole has to be the most boring job in the world."

The £140,000 project, aided by a grant from the heritage lottery fund, was initiated by Torfaen Borough Council, the park's owners.

The architect of the eccentric structure was the curiously named Stephen Gunston Tit of Bath. The grotto was commissioned by Molly Mackworth, whose hus-

band's ancestors were local iron masters who had bought the estate in the 16th century.

According to tradition, the grotto was painstakingly decorated over seven years by a hermit. If so, he must have been virtually the only hermit to survive the full seven years stipulated by Georgian land owners but then he had the rare comfort of a working fireplace with a proper chimney.

## Institute of Physics

The following have been elected Fellows of the Institute of Physics:

Dr Ronald Atkinson, Queen's University, Belfast; Professor Jonathan Michael Blackledge, Montfort University; Dr C Dolores Byrne, DERA; Mr Brian Reginald Chapman, Leeds University; Dr John Christopher Earmshaw, Queen's University Belfast; Dr Roger Beden, Hale, British Computer Society; Dr Sook-Vineh Ko, Department of Defence, Australia; Professor S Gerard Jennings, University College, Galway; Dr Michael Adrian Lee, Research Instruments Ltd; Professor Richard Lawrence Maughan, Wayne State University; Dr Ronald Milne, Natural Environment Research Council; Dr Gian-Luca Oppo, Strathclyde University; Professor Martin John Powell, Philips Research Laboratories; Mr Roger Wymond Preston, National Power; Dr Michael Noel Ben-Ruddin, Northumbria University; Mr John Simpson, W.S. Atkins plc; Dr John Stephenson, Alberta University, Canada; Dr Anthony David Surridge, Department of Mineral Resources, Energy, South Africa; Dr Graham Thomas Queen Mary and Westfield College; Dr Rovland Wynne, Welsh Funding Councils.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A.S. Jackson

and Miss L.C. Mayhew. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr John S. Jackson and of the late Dulia Jackson of Santiago, Chile, and Louisa, daughter of Mr Anthony Mayhew, of Whitesmith, Sussex, and Lady Roper, of Bedale, Yorkshire.

Mr A.J. Macmillan

and Miss C.S. Mullens. The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr Kenneth Macmillan of Dulwich, London, and Mrs Carole Winterfold, of Isleworth, Middlesex, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Mullens of Kings Walden, Hertfordshire.

Mr O. Malmud

and Miss J. Reid. The engagement is announced between Oliver, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Malmud, of Westmeon, Essex, and Jacqueline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Simon, W.S. Atkins plc; Dr John Stephenson, Alberta University, Canada; Dr Anthony David Surridge, Department of Mineral Resources, Energy, South Africa; Dr Graham Thomas Queen Mary and Westfield College; Dr Rovland Wynne, Welsh Funding Councils.

Mr M.W. Power

and Miss J.A. Gallagher.

The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs Dublin, Dublin, Ireland, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Joe Gallagher of Ballybride, Dublin and Bentley Heath, West Midlands.

Mr N.C. Studholme-Wilson

and Miss P.H. Trickey. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Simon Studholme-Wilson, of Oldenzaal, Gloucestershire, and Polly, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Trickey, of Sunninghill, Berkshire.

Colonel D.E. Travers

and Mrs L. Butterfield. The engagement is announced between Colonel David Travers, late The Royal Green Jackets, and Mrs Linda Butterfield, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr J.H. White

and Miss D.J.K. McAulay. The engagement is announced between Jason Holroyd, son of Mr and Mrs Ian White of Piford, Surrey, and Deborah Jane Kadourie, daughter of Mr Ronald and the Hon Mrs McAulay, of Hong Kong.

## Service dinner

Women's Transport Service (FANY)

Corp Commander Anna Whitehead presided at the regimental dinner of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) held yesterday at Longmoor Camp, Hampshire, to open the celebrations for the FANY's 90th year.

The following have been elected officers of the *Armourers' and Brasiers' Company* for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Peter J. Fenlon; Upper Warden, Mr John H. Hale; Rector Warden: Mr Gerald A. Garnett.

## Latest wills

Walter Wheatley, of Churt, Surrey, left estate valued at £9,452,779 net.

Leonard Richard Stevens, of Effingham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,496,129 net.

Edith Sophie Cowpland, of London W13, left estate valued at £2,057,957 net.

Arthur James Daniels, of Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, left estate valued at £2,183,888 net.

Harriet Elizabeth Willis Gaunt, of Oley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £2,593,623 net.

She left £200,000 to the ENLIT Trust Fund, a school on the west coast of Scotland.

Peter Banbury, Welsh, of London SW3, left estate valued at £1,483,229 net.

## Marriage

Mr T.K. Sale

and Miss J.J. Milward. The marriage took place on Saturday, April 26, 1997, at Landwade Church, Exning, on the Isle of Wight, Isle of Wight. Dr C.K. Sale, son of the late Dr C.K. Sale, and of Mrs S.M. Cowley, to Miss Joanne Milward, daughter of Mr and Mrs Joe Milward, of Wootton, Isle of Wight.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Henrietta and Georgina Hine, Charlotte Hoare, Lydia Newton, Henry Langton and Maximilian Napier. Dr Peter Milward was best man.

The reception was held at the Jockey Club, Newmarket and the honeymoon in Italy.

## TRADE: 0171 481 1982

## FAX: 0171 481 9313

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

YORKS CHELSEA BRIDGE club and bar, 100-102 Old Bond Street, London W1. Tel 071-732 1262.

## RENTALS

WPA, Queen's Inn, 2nd floor, 200 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4, Tel 0171 730 2642.

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## FLIGHTWISE

CHIEF FLIGHTS FOR 1997

DOMESTIC & OVERSEAS

## OBITUARIES

## AIR COMMODORE DAVID FITZPATRICK

Air Commodore David FitzPatrick CB, OBE, AFC and Bar, a former base commander on Christmas Island; died on April 19 aged 77. He was born on January 31, 1920.

David "Fiz" FitzPatrick took command of the RAF base on Christmas Island shortly after Britain carried out a controversial series of hydrogen bomb tests in the atmosphere in the South Pacific nearly 40 years ago. The six tests, carried out by Vickers' Valiant bombers which dropped the bombs from high altitude after flying from a temporary airfield on the island in 1952, are still the subject of allegations by British servicemen who contracted various forms of cancer in later years.

Those of the men who have survived are claiming compensation because, they say, of their exposure to radioactivity at the time. But FitzPatrick, although he developed a blood condition related to leukaemia in recent years, always stood aside from the debate, accepting that cause and effect were hard to prove.

A top-grade flying instructor with two Air Force Crosses to his name, he had been badly injured in an air accident not long before his posting to the South Pacific in 1959. The Hunter jet in which he had taken off from the RAF Flying College at Manby crashed into a field, narrowly missing the married quarters, after its engine had cut out at low level. FitzPatrick, unable to eject, miraculously escaped with his life, but still broke his back and smashed his knee on the controls — injuries which were to earn him a disability pension in later years.

He remained on Christmas Island until the following year, as the RAF facility was wound down, before going on to command the air bases at Akrotiri — the home of a tactical strike wing — and Nicosia during the troubled 1960s in Cyprus.

He was director of quartering at the Ministry of Defence, responsible for RAF building



projects for three years before serving as the RAF's representative on the Armed Forces Pay Review Body in 1969.

But FitzPatrick, despite his early reputation as a pilot, may now be best remembered in the RAF as a guided weapons (GW) specialist. After completing a course at the RAF Engineering College at Hendon in the 1950s, a GW theme ran through his career, reflecting the growing concentration on missiles as air armaments. He spent his last five years in the RAF as director of GW trials, paying a number of visits to the rocket range at Woomera in Australia, before retiring in 1975.

serving with a Sunderland flying boat squadron operating out of Pembroke Dock in the early part of 1939, in April of that year he was posted to 202 Squadron in Gibraltar.

With the Italian invasion of Albania in that month the Mediterranean was becoming increasingly tense and No 202's antiquated Saro London biplane flying boats were part of what was optimistically envisaged as an antidote to the perceived Italian threat.

FitzPatrick remained in Gibraltar until 1942 when he moved to 209 Squadron, a formation of Catalinas based in East Africa and took part in the operation to seize control of

Madagascar from the Vichy French. From 1944 he commanded the squadron himself in operations over the Indian Ocean to track down Japanese and German submarines.

After the war, FitzPatrick was granted a permanent commission. He and his flying boats were to be back in action again in one of the first operations of the Cold War, the Berlin airlift of 1948-49. The Sunderland, that wartime workhorse of maritime reconnaissance, now proved itself invaluable, flying precious cargoes of coal into the beleaguered city and landing on one of its lakes.

FitzPatrick next qualified as an AI-grade instructor on jet aircraft; he won his first AFC in 1949 as chief flying instructor on Meteors at the Advanced Flying School at Middleton St George, Yorkshire, and his second in 1958 after completing a tour as wing commander (flying) at the RAF Flying College. His CB in 1970 followed his time with the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

Then on retiring in 1975 he achieved another ambition by becoming a schoolmaster. He taught geography, French (which he spoke well) and games at Fernside School, Surrey, for ten years until the age of 65.

A stocky, powerfully-built man, "Fiz" was one of the RAF's best-known characters. Stubborn, resourceful and competitive, he was a natural leader whose down-to-earth style and sense of humour made him popular with subordinates.

He played cricket for the Combined Services and represented the RAF at water polo.

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His ambition to fly, however,

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## THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY MAY 6 1997

## NEWS

## Labour woos Europe with honey

The new Government launched a charm offensive towards the European Union, promising a fresh start to its partners in Brussels but also warning them that Britain would not cede control of its frontiers or the national veto in key areas.

Doug Henderson, the Minister for Europe, brought Tony Blair's goodwill message to a Brussels treaty negotiation. He also formally outlined Britain's intention to sign the social chapter and implement it within weeks. **Pages 1, 8, 9**

## Redwood launches leadership bid

John Redwood announces his challenge for the Conservative leadership with a declaration that he is the only contender able to take on Tony Blair without having to defend the mistakes of the Tory Government. He claims that he can give the Conservatives hope for the future. **Page 1**

## Sporting choice

Tony Banks, one of the most boisterous voices in the Commons, has been brought onto the Government front bench as Minister of Sport. **Page 1**

## MacGregor role

John MacGregor has emerged as a strong candidate to take over the chairmanship of the Conservative 1922 committee and help to unify the Tories. **Page 2**

## Boys feared drowned

Three boys were feared dead after becoming trapped by the rapidly rising tide while exploring coastal marshes at the mouth of the Humber estuary. **Page 3**

## Young artist

The talents of a boy from Georgia in the former Soviet Union so impressed a London art dealer that he is devoting an exhibition to the prodigy Beso Kazaishvili, aged 11. **Page 5**

## Cinema artists

Two posters that helped to attract cinema-goers 60 years ago are about to draw an audience. Film buffs are expected to pay up to £9,000 each for them. **Page 5**

## Badgers under fire

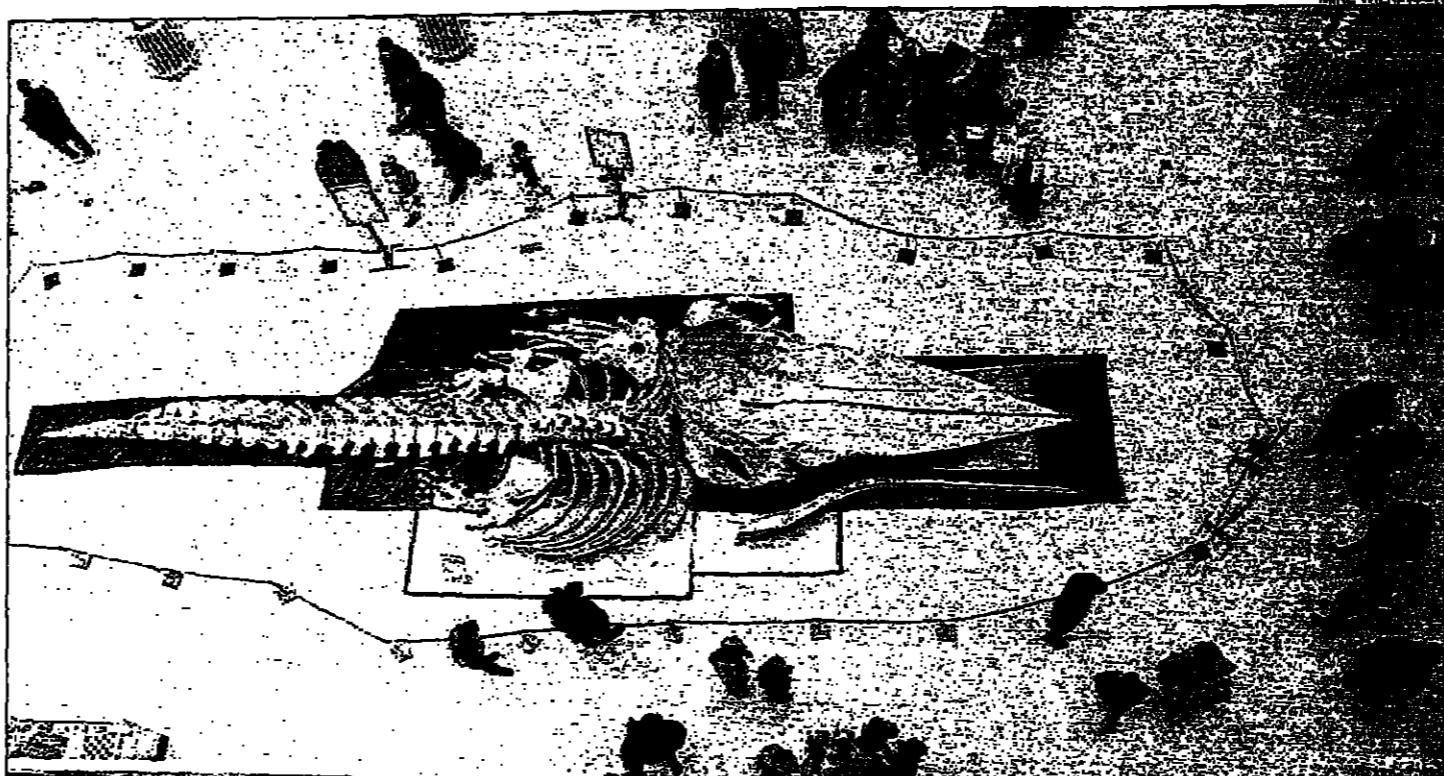
Vets have called for widespread culls of badgers to stop them spreading tuberculosis to cattle. It is the first time vets have backed demands by farmers for large-scale control of one of Britain's best protected animals. **Page 6**

## Opium threat

In the next month Afghanistan will produce enough raw opium to supply 80 per cent of the heroin market in Britain and the rest of Europe for a year and there is nobody to stop it. **Page 13**

## Can winter be far behind?

Families in southern England who spent much of the weekend basking could wake today to up to an inch of snow as winter is blown back on strong Arctic winds. Temperatures, which had hovered around 8°F (27°C) on Friday, dropped back to 64°F (18°C) yesterday and could plunge today. Forecasters predict cold weather until the end of the week. **Page 1**



The skeleton of Moby, the sperm whale which died in the Firth of Forth, went on show at the National Museum of Scotland. **Page 3**

## BUSINESS

**Mining scandal:** Mining investigators have damned an Indonesian gold mine once hoped to be the world's richest, as the world's worst mining fraud. **Pages 48, 49**

**Social Chapter:** British business has been warned that half a dozen new labour laws are waiting only on the UK's accession to the EU's Social Chapter. **Page 48**

**Utilities:** Southern Electricity is fighting a crucial ruling by the Data Protection Registrar that it cannot use its customer lists to sell them other products, such as gas. **Page 45**

**Railways:** Railtrack, the privatised company that was once the object of Labour loathing, could be the new government's partner to promote a return to rail. **Page 46**

**Refugee appeal:** Zairean rebels appeared slow to react to an appeal by aid workers to halt the use of a narrow-gauge railway after 91 refugees died in overcrowded wagons. **Page 46**

**Chinese hopes:** Tung Chee-hwa, Chief Executive designate of the Hong Kong Government from July 1, called on the Government of Tony Blair to make a new start in Sino-British relations. **Page 12**

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## SPORTS

**Football:** Manchester United drew 3-3 with Middlesbrough. United could win the Premiership tonight if Newcastle's and Liverpool's results go their way. **Page 25**

**Snooker:** Ken Doherty stood on the threshold of breaking Stephen Hendry's recent Embassy world championship monopoly when he established a 15-9 lead in the final. **Page 25**

**Cricket:** Kent and Essex became the first qualifiers for the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup with wins over British Universities and Somerset. **Pages 26, 27**

**Rugby league:** A video official is likely to be introduced for the Challenge Cup final next season after at least one try was incorrectly awarded last Saturday. **Page 28**

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## ARTS

**Art mania:** The Photographers' Gallery explores the eccentric passion of collectors in a series of shows at venues around central London. **Page 18**

**Music man:** A South Bank concert launches the celebration of the centenary of the birth of Erich Wolfgang Korngold, musical wunderkind and a Hollywood award-winner. **Page 18**

**Best of friends:** The warm friendship between father and son is the real-life story behind *Koizumi*, the Czech film that was able to walk off with the Oscar for Best Foreign Film. **Page 19**

**Thumbs down:** Joe Penhall's new play, *Love and Understanding*, is more like an episodic soap than a piece of real theatre. **Page 19**

**Changing times:** What the new Government will mean to magistrates. Paula Davis on stipendiary apprentices. **Page 39**

**Scrap success:** Little did Tessa Pearce realise five years ago when she advertised some materials left over from her house restoration that it would be the birth of an international business recycling building artefacts. **Page 41**

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**Borderline blues:** How a prestige postal area or address can make all the difference to the price of your house. **Page 19**

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CRICKET: RECORD PARTNERSHIP PUTS BENSON AND HEDGES CUP MATCH BEYOND GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S GRASP

## Taylor's second century lifts Sussex spirits

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HOVE (Sussex won toss): Sussex (2pts) beat Gloucestershire by 44 runs

SUSSEX will not dominate many teams this summer, but they intend to enjoy it when it happens. There was a noisy, boisterous exuberance about them at Hove last evening as Gloucestershire, who had begun the day with a superior swagger under clear blue skies, were vanquished in the gathering gloom.

Neil Taylor, whose county career looked over when Kent released him last autumn, made the second century of his reincarnation and shared a stand of 208 with Mark Newell, an all-wicket record, for Sussex in the Benson and Hedges Cup and the abiding memory of a decent match.

The total of 273 was too many for

Gloucestershire, despite some vintage improvisation from Jack Russell, and credit is due to Nicky Phillips and Amer Khan, the inexperienced spin bowlers, who each took three wickets and bowled an intelligent length.

For Sussex, the immediate benefits of this success are dubious. It probably means that neither of these teams will qualify for the quarter-finals, which will leave Gloucestershire free to stage the opening first-class fixture of the Australian tour, an honour that otherwise would have passed to Sussex.

Such side-issues did not enter the equation last night. Every Sussex player wore a broad grin and, in the committee room, the gang of three who took over this club showed uninhibited relief. Victory might be materially insignificant, but its worth to morale is immeasurable, for a club stripped of its best players and

starved of respect, any win tastes sweet.

Off the field, Sussex are forging ahead. Today, Robin Marlar and Tony Pigott, their chairman and chief executive, will outline their plans to Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board. These include a floodlit Axa Life League match against Surrey in August.

What the game yesterday emphasised is the character of the side. Whether generated by adversity, or outside scorn, the players express a spirit that will not easily be doused. Pigott is a lifelong supporter of Leicester City and he draws an analogy between the two teams. Leicester, although without star players, have thrived through team spirit, hard work and commitment. "I reckon Sussex can do something similar and that is the message I keep giving the players," Pigott said.

They responded appropriately here, especially after losing both openers cheaply. After 19 overs, the Sussex score had crept to 40 for two and Taylor, deprived of the strike for long periods, had managed just nine singles.

There was not much of a crowd, and those who had turned up wore the resigned expressions of people who have paid to watch a film and realised, too late, that they have seen it several times already. There was, though, to be a twist to the familiar Hove script and it was initiated by the enterprise of Newell.

In the side only through the illness of his elder brother, Newell edged his first ball between wicketkeeper and slip for four, but played very few false strokes thereafter. His driving was a delight and the impetus that he gave to the innings had a pronounced effect on his hitherto sleeping partner.

Taylor always has been a master of pacing an innings, imperceptibly moving through the gears. A sweep six took him to 50, the last 44 from 30 balls, and he streaked away from Newell to finish with 116 at a run a ball. Alleyne and the two Gloucestershire slow bowlers were savaged as 96 came from the last ten overs.

Sussex now made the perfect start in the field as Monte Lynch was run out without facing a ball. Phillips throwing down the stumps from mid-on. Tony Wright played fluently until he and Young were both well caught by Peter Moores, standing up to Mark Robinson. When the fretting Newell script and it was initiated by the enterprise of Newell.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 6 1997

Fairbrother provides Lancashire with means of escape

By RICHARD HOBSON

WALSALL (Lancashire won toss): Minor Counties, with two wickets in hand, need a further 210 runs from 49 overs to beat Lancashire

FOR a period yesterday, the Minor Counties stood on the threshold of one of the most surprising results in the 25 years of the Benson and Hedges Cup. They restricted Lancashire, the winners of the trophy for the past two seasons and the giants of the one-day game for much longer, to 41 for five and held every chance of eclipsing the extraordinary feats of Ireland and the British Universities in conquering first-class opponents over the past fortnight.

Only the wiles of Neil Fairbrother and the support of the lower middle-order rescued Lancashire from humiliation. While it is plausible that the Minor Counties can knock off the 210 that they require today, the likelihood is that the Lancashire, suitably chastened, will claim the two points that they need to remain in contention for a quarter-final place.

Five of the Minor Counties side have been on the playing staff at Old Trafford and all seven wickets fell to men who had at one time proudly sported the red rose. Lancashire could not claim to have been taken by surprise. In fact, they were undone by the folly of their approach on a slow pitch that rewarded the patient but punished the rash. Four of the first five victims fell to catches after playing with needless aggression against the new-ball pair of Neal Radford and Marcus Sharp. The latter bowled his ten overs in a single spell costing just 17 runs.

Lancashire felt the need to improve their run-rate, having lost to Yorkshire and Derbyshire in the toughest of the four groups. They did not appreciate until the nick of time, however, that the priority was to earn victory whatever the manner. Gallian drove to gully before Crawley fell for his third duck in four innings in the competition when Fielding held a chance one-handed at mid-off.

Michael Atherton, resting his groin injury as a precaution, would surely not have perished in such a fashion. Even Atherton, though, might have struggled to defend the delivery from Sharp that pitched on middle and beat the defence of McKeown before clipping the off bail. Still Lancashire attacked. After a short break, Ian Austin whipped the first two balls through mid-wicket but soon edged behind, and Lloyd succumbed to a marvellous low catch at cover by Gaywood.

That the Minor Counties had surpassed all expectations was evident from their glee. With just six previous victories in this competition, such excitement was justifiable. Yet with Fairbrother demonstrating necessary vigilance, the initiative swung.

The home seamers' true, failed to compensate for the absence of Mohammad Akram, their Pakistan fast bowler. But David Follett, 28, who left Middlesex for Northamptonshire during the winter, produced balls of quality to have David Lockhart caught at slip, and later York Graham Hurlbut, Scotland's top scorer.

He put on 57 with Wasim Akram and then 101 in 19 overs with Hegg, who moved from 23 to 50 within two overs of being dropped by Dalton.

Fairbrother, too, enjoyed a life on 40 and, by the time that Ecclestone atoned for his earlier mistake, Fairbrother had scored 62 from 128 balls.

There is more to playing positive cricket than crash bang and wallop.



Taylor: shrewd timing

## Prichard makes the running in rout of Somerset

By PAT GIBSON

CHELMSFORD (Somerset won toss): Essex (2pts) beat Somerset by eight wickets

PAUL PRICHARD has decided to lead Essex from the front this season and yesterday he could not have done it better.

He opened the batting, made 114, his highest score in 54 Benson and Hedges Cup matches, and as good as guaranteed his side a home game in the quarter-finals.

For Somerset, it must have smacked of déjà vu. A year ago, in the same competition, they set Essex to score 250 to film and lost by eight wickets. Once with 8½ overs to spare. Now they challenged Essex to make 195. 270 and they needed only 106 seven more balls to win by a similar margin.

Then it was Stuart Law, whose omission from the Australian tour party makes Englishmen shudder at the oblique strength of their batting, who took Essex to victory with an unbeaten century. Now Law was outscored by Prichard, which tells you how well he played.

Between them, they put on 204 in only 50 overs to score a significant victory for what one will call proper batting over "pinch-hitting", the modern way of approaching the 50-over game favoured by Dermot Reeve, Somerset's innovative new coach.

"It is not a case of pinch-hitting," Prichard said, explaining the Essex philosophy.

Law hit a six, effortlessly

helped over the fine-leg boundary off Kerr, and 11 fours in his 88 off 89 balls, but for once he was overshadowed by the compact, pugnacious Prichard, who had 17 fours in his 114 off 101 balls.

He was eventually caught behind driving at Kerr but by then the job was virtually done and there was no need for Caddick to look so aggrieved, when Rose, peering into the sun, put down a skier at long leg when Hussain had made seven.

There were no further alarms as Hussain and Gooch eased Essex to their fifth win in as many one-day games this season, confirming the impression that they have the balance to be a major threat in all competitions.

The Somerset total had been built around a solid 91 in 40 overs by Burns, who was Warwickshire's reserve wicketkeeper last year but is now opening the batting for Somerset and bowling his medium pace as economically as anybody.

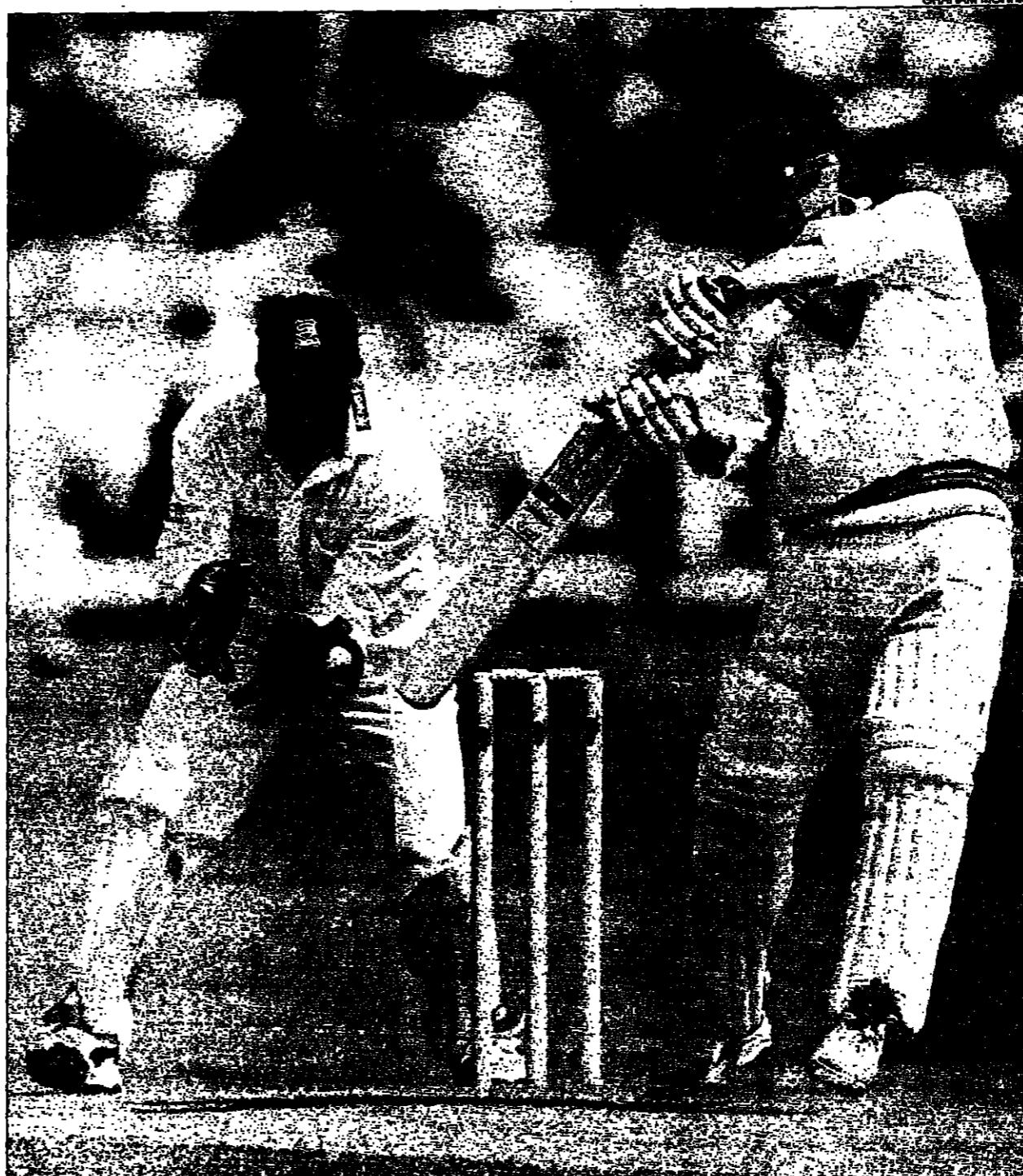
His only support among the pinch-hitters came from Mushtaq, who did not seem to have too much wrong with his knee when he was slogging 31 off 27 balls and it was not until the more orthodox Harden, batting as low as No 7, went in to make 64 off 67 balls that Somerset got anywhere near the kind of total they needed on such a good pitch. Even then, it was not enough.

It seemed a trivial complaint compared with what Prichard has been through in recent years. He has suffered badly from broken fingers and during the winter underwent a double fusion of the spine involving the insertion of two screws in his lower back to cure a problem which has been troubling him for several seasons.

He feels all the better for it and plans to open the batting in all competitions this season. "Somebody has got to carry on from Graham Gooch when he retires," he said. "And hopefully it will be me. I am not saying that I will fill his boots but I will try."

Prichard certainly filled his own boots yesterday. He reached his 50 out of 88 and was already past 100 by the time Law went to pull Caddick and skied a gentle catch to mid-on.

"It is not a case of pinch-hitting," Prichard said, explaining the Essex philosophy.



Lathwell forces the ball into the off side during his innings of 17 for Somerset at Chelmsford yesterday

## Tendulkar suggests recipe for success

By JOHN THICKNESSE

NORTHAMPTON (Northamptonshire won toss): Northamptonshire, with five wickets in hand, need another 35 runs to beat Scotland with 23 overs remaining

IT MAY seem from the scorecard that Northamptonshire had a relatively easy ride in climbing to within 35 runs of beating Scotland, with five wickets standing in their group B match at Northampton. The reality was different. Not only did they bowl badly and catch appallingly, dropping five chances, but, need-

ing 161 to win, they lost five wickets for 94 through impulsive batting and might have been in serious difficulties but for Malathy Tendulkar, who played the innings of the day.

There was irony in that. For though David平常, at first slip, and Tim Walton, in the covers, fluffed chances and would expect to take at least four times out of five, far and away the easiest was missed by Tendulkar himself.

Fielding on the edge of the circle at mid-off, he made such a hash of a skier from Bruce Patterson that he not only deprived John Embrey of a wicket but cost his side two

runs — one while the ball was in the air and a second when it rebounded off his cheekbone into open space.

Loye, who was reported to have been off colour anyway, was knocked out and did not field again, and batted — at No 6 — only because his presence was demanded by the previous position of his team.

When rain stopped play, flooding an area close to the tarpaulin covers, Loye was 32 not out, including three fours and a superb six, a flat pull to mid-wicket.

If the ground fails to dry

today — and the forecast is pessimistic — Northamptonshire will win through a faster scoring-rate.

Embrey was unexpectedly forgiving about Loye's drop, considering it meant he went wicketless through a spell of subtlety and wonderful control. Operating into a strong breeze coming from long-leg, he scarcely bowled an off break, delivering instead a series of flat arm-balls that drifted leg-to-off after pitching on the batsmen's legs. Such was his accuracy that in ten overs he conceded only 14 runs — one four, one two and eight singles.

As Northamptonshire's

chief coach, however, he was fiercely critical of his fellow bowlers — surprisingly so, I thought, considering that though the pitch was grassy, it was dry and lacked even a tinge of green. "A county side should have bowled a side like Scotland out for less than a hundred on that wicket," Embrey said. "Seamers have to get the ball in the right area, six balls out of six. I'm not happy with it and I shall tell them so."

Jim Loye, 42, the former Yorkshire player, now Scotland's director of cricket, was predictably heralded by that comment. "I feel John's re-

marks a bit unfair on today's evidence, though it might have applied to some of our past performances," he said.

"There is still a big gap, but you get the feeling on today's evidence that we can compete."

The home seamers' true, failed to compensate for the absence of Mohammad Akram, their Pakistan fast bowler. But David Follett, 28, who left Middlesex for Northamptonshire during the winter, produced balls of quality to have David Lockhart caught at slip, and later York Graham Hurlbut, Scotland's top scorer.

## Llong spares Kent's blushes

By JACK BAILEY

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Kent (2pts) beat British Universities by four wickets

KENT are probably as well equipped as any team in the country for the limited-over game. Batting and bowling make them formidable opposition.

However, they were taken all the way yesterday by British Universities, for whom victory appeared to be a real possibility until Nigel Llong and Mark Ealham put in 172 from 21 overs for the sixth wicket, a stand which all but saved Kent's home.

Llong was out to a brilliant diving catch at mid-off, just before the end. By then, he had done enough to clinch victory for Kent and assure them of a place in the Benson and Hedges quarter-finals, and also to win his first Gold Award. His innings of 75 from 64 balls contained 12 fours. It was just the sort of counter-attacking cricket Kent needed.

They had been tied down by Jones, the Bristol captain, full back, who illustrated

what fitness, determination and bowling line and length can do. They also had looked likely to succumb to the pace of Boswell and the spin of Rashid before Llong brought an end to the aspirations of a good, if inexperienced, Universities team.

The students' innings owed much to Mark Chilton as well as to Tim Hodgson and Anurag Singh, already well known at Edgbaston. Chilton was firing on all cylinders when he fell to a marvellous diving catch by Matthew Fleming at short extra-cover, which brought him roughly half his 11 fours — the damage could have been terminal.

Hodgson, who had given

tall orders, played with good sense and, with a half-century from 69 balls, ensured that Kent would have to score 224 to win.

That presented no great problem, on the face of it, but struggle Kent did. Sharp and aggressive bowling by Boswell and a spell of impeccable line and length from Jones were chiefly responsible for Kent being reduced to 99 for five in the 24th over. Had it not been for Fleming's 63 from 44 balls out of 76 — and the serviceable edges which brought him roughly half his 11 fours — the damage could have been terminal.

The Kent slow left-armer has been suffering from a knee complaint for some time, and on Saturday injured the knee badly during a club match. He is expected to have an operation later this summer.

Kent coach John Wright said: "It's a blow for us because we were looking forward to having Min linking up with Paul Strang this season." Patel, 26, played in the first two Tests against India last year.

The Kent slow left-armer has been suffering from a knee complaint for some time, and on Saturday injured the knee badly during a club match. He is expected to have an operation later this summer.

## Smith fires opening salvo

By IVO TENNANT

EDGBASTON (Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire, with ten wickets in hand, need 220 runs to beat Warwickshire

THERE is no stronger group in the Benson and Hedges Cup this year than the one into which Warwickshire and Yorkshire have been cast. By the end of a day's play split by numerous interruptions for rain, and light as opaque as it can be for the time of year, neither county was any nearer resolving qualification for this season's quarter-finals.

Yorkshire, who, like Warwickshire, have won two of their three matches in group A, resume today needing 220 for a further 45 overs, with all their wickets intact. If that would appear to indicate a target well within their compass, it should be mentioned that the weather forecast is again poor, the ball has been darting around and no batsman, save perhaps for Neil Smith, has managed to surmount the conditions. This has the makings of a fascinating

quarter-final.

Smith, returning to the side, had gone cheaply, playing on to Gough. Brown chipped White's first ball to short mid-wicket. Hemp looked the part, but then he often did when he was with Glamorgan. He was bowled hitting across the line in Vaughan's first over.

Ultimately, only a partnership of 39 of the last six overs between Giles — a useful player to have coming in at No 9 — and Donald brought about a respectable total. Sixteen came off the final over, which meant that the runs at the end were all the more valuable. There was time for only five overs of Yorkshire's reply before the gloaming descended.



MOTOR RACING: PEUGEOT KEPT WAITING AGAIN FOR FIRST TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

# Harvey just fails to tread new ground

By MARK FOGARTY

PEUGEOT, the only manufacturer never to taste victory in the Auto Trader British Touring Car championship, came tantalisingly close to breaking its duck in the sixth round at Thruxton yesterday, when Tim Harvey failed by fractions of a second to beat Gabriele Tarquini, in a Honda.

Harvey, the 1992 champion, fought his way through from sixteenth position after an impromptu pit stop to switch from untried 'slick' tyres to lightly-treated intermediate rubber on his Peugeot 406. He gambled that the change would give him an advantage on the rain-swept track.

It proved to be an inspired choice, enabling him to reel in

Blundell's return ..... 34

the front-runners at a prodigious pace, powering past the slick-shod machines ahead of him with nonchalant ease.

Harvey, confirming his reputation as a 'train-master', snatched second place from Alain Menu, the champion's team leader, on the penultimate lap and beat the Honda Accord of Tarquini in his sights on the run to the chequered flag.

He was slightly held up by a back-marker through the final corner and, but for the interference, he might have pipped Tarquini at the post instead of losing by just 0.657sec.

Harvey's performance, which brought Peugeot closer

to victory than ever before in its six-year participation in the championship, brought the Bank Holiday crowd of 22,000 to its feet.

"One more lap and I could have won," Harvey said. "You have to say it was an opportunistic win, but we all had the chance to make the same call on the rain-swept track."

The car felt good, even in the dry, but when the safety car came out, I knew that my only real chance to move up the field was to duck into the pits and change to intermediate tyres.

Harvey was one of five drivers who gambled on making a pit stop for treaded tyres as the safety car circulated slowly ahead of the field while the stricken Audi A4 of Frank Biela, the defending champion, who crashed on the first lap, was moved out of harm's way.

Harvey's charge from the tail of the field was almost matched by the progress of Anthony Reid, in a Nissan Primera, and Derek Warwick, in a Vauxhall Vectra, who also cut swathes through the stragglers to finish fourth and sixth respectively.

The result confirmed Harvey's belief that the 406 is close to ending winning a race for Peugeot, as well as providing much-needed encouragement for the Motor Sport Development team, which this year has taken over management of the company's touring car programme.

"The 406 is a good car," Harvey said. "It wins in Germany and there's no rea-



Biela, the defending touring car champion, whose Audi A4 crashed on the first lap at Thruxton yesterday

son why it shouldn't win here. I believe we'll win a race before the end of the season."

While Harvey was exulted by his tactical result, Tarquini and Menu were unhappy that the 22-lap race was allowed to continue, both describing conditions during the middle of the event as dangerous.

"When it started raining, I decided to play it safe," said

Menu, whose pole position-winning Renault Laguna was beaten away at the start by Tarquini's Honda. "I think they should have stopped the race because it was getting dangerous."

Tarquini, the 1994 champion, said: "I agree with Alain that it was too dangerous in the middle of the race. The safety car should have come

out again for a few laps. My car was good and I decided to take a big chance and drive very hard. At one stage, I had a very big moment — my car was 90 degrees sideways. But it is good to win again. It is a very important result for Honda."

Menu's third place, on top of his similarly cautious third in the fifth round, which was

won by Biela from Tarquini, extended his lead in the championship to 35 points over Rickard Rydell, of Sweden, who is two points clear of Tarquini.

After performing poorly in qualifying on Saturday, Rydell recovered from his lowly starting positions to finish fifth in both races in his Volvo S40.

## FOR THE RECORD

**FOOTBALL**  
FA Carling Premiership

MAN UTD (3) 3 MIDDELSBROUGH (3) 3  
Hull 34 Junho 15 Emerson 37 Hangel 40  
Sheffield 61

CASTROL LEAGUE: Division 1: Middlesbrough 3-0

CASTROL LEAGUE: Division 2: Middlesbrough 3-0

CASTROL LEAGUE: Division 3: Middlesbrough 3-0

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FOOTBALL DETERMINED MOTHERWELL KEEP SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP CHAMPAGNE ON ICE AT IBROX

## Rangers learn cost of complacency

Rangers ..... 6  
Motherwell ..... 2

By KEVIN McCORMACK

All the presumption that has surrounded ... Rangers ... for weeks seemed to be confirmed yesterday. Before kick-off, the splendid new video screens at Ibrox displayed scenes from the eight consecutive championships that they have already won, before flashing up the figure nine. It was footage that a prudent person would have reserved for the post-match celebrations after the necessary point had been secured.

Perhaps Motherwell felt as if they were being treated with condescension and, perhaps,

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pl.
Rangers	34	24	5	5	83	30	77
Celtic	34	22	5	7	75	32	71
Dundee Utd	34	17	9	8	48	23	69
Darlington	35	12	9	12	48	35	48
Aberdeen	35	10	13	12	44	32	45
Motherwell	35	9	10	16	42	37	37
Hibernian	35	9	10	16	37	34	37
Kilmarnock	34	11	4	19	40	60	37
Part	35	6	6	23	28	72	34

the already great resolve of a team still at risk of relegation was doubled. Certainly, with their sturdy defending and neat counter-attacks, Motherwell will not only relish the joy of victory but also proclaim its justice.

A greater sense of humility is liable to accompany Rangers to the match with Dundee United at Tannadice tomorrow, but it remains virtually certain that the club will collect the Bell's Scottish League premier division trophy, so equalling the record of nine titles in succession set by Celtic between 1966 and 1974.

Even if Rangers were to lose their last two games a superior goal difference, which stands at ten, would probably still keep Celtic at bay. These, however, are factors that few people at Ibrox can have expected to be exploring yesterday. Motherwell finish in the table before this result,



Gascoigne, right, attempts to break through the Motherwell defence yesterday as Rangers struggle at Ibrox. Photograph: Ian Stewart

hardly looked likely to sabotage the celebrations. Football has a habit, however, of demanding abrupt reappraisals and, from the opening exchanges, it was clear that a genuine contest was breaking out. Rangers had not played a game for almost three weeks, but Walter Smith, their manager, felt that the period of inactivity had dulled the appetite more than it blunted the team's edge.

"Over that period," he said, "everyone has told them that they have won the championship. Everyone except me. We showed what can happen if you are not careful and you are not fully up to the game." Smith also pointed out that

charges of complacency could be levelled against the press as much as his squad. It is, however, the players who have paid the higher price for that vice.

Motherwell hogged possession in the early passages and scored in the seventh minute, when McMillan forced the ball across the area and Coyle turned to sweep it low past Dibble for the first of his two goals. Rangers had suffered more than a mere glitch and, for a while, they were likelier to fall further behind than to recover their poise.

In the eighth minute, Dibble pushed over a Coyle drive and, five minutes later, Coyle flicked a header a little high of

the target. After 22 minutes, Rangers might have scored, when Hateley leapt to Laudrup's cross and smacked the ball against the face of the bar, but that was a rare interruption to the course of the first half.

Any exasperation within Motherwell's ranks stemmed principally from a failure to entrench their position. In the 37th minute, Dibble had scuffed the ball straight to Coyle and the forward shot weakly back to the goalkeeper, from 20 yards, when he could have sent Weir through with a simple pass. Motherwell, nonetheless, had reason for self-satisfaction.

In defence, Martin and Van

der Gaag not only won the aerial challenges but also proved incisive on the ground, frequently incising attacks with a clean tackle. Once in possession, Motherwell were adept at finding routes down which they could break.

After the interval, Rangers did at last assert themselves, but then found themselves colliding with an adverse fate. Gascoigne, who had been introduced as a substitute, mysteriously placed a Robertson cross wide of the post in the sort of situation that normally sees him demonstrate finesse. It was to be Motherwell who produced the fast, decisive piece of accuracy. Seven minutes from the end,

Burns, a substitute, swept over a low cross from the left and Durrant, another substitute, brought down Weir as he attempted a challenge. Coyle tucked away the penalty. Motherwell are now seventh and can remove all risk of relegation if they win against Aberdeen on Saturday. It was not the achievement that had been expected from this match.

RANGERS (3-5-2): A Dibble — A McLaren, R Gough, J Birkland — A Cleland, C Moore (sub, P Gascoigne, 45min), J Albert, M Durnan, 78, B McMillan, 10, D Robertson, G Dunc (sub, A McColl, 70), M Hesley.

MOTHERWELL (4-4-2): S Howie — E May, M van der Gaag, B Martin, 1, Ross — M Weir, S Burns, 80 — T Coyle (sub, D Arnell, 72), G Coyle

Referee: J Rowbotham

## Flo makes an offer to warm the heart

## Chairmen reluctant to regionalise

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IN AN era of increasing wage demands and decreasing loyalty among players, a tale to warm the heart emerged from Scandinavia yesterday (Russell Kempson writes). For Andy Flo, Chelsea's latest foreign import, has offered to pay SK Brann, Bergen, his Norwegian club, £200,000 from his own pocket by way of compensation for his departure.

Flo, 23, agreed to join Chelsea last Thursday, the first day of the six-month pre-contract "window" that, under the Bosman ruling, allows a player to sign for another club on a free transfer. He will continue to play for Brann until his contract expires at the end of October. Yet Brann still felt aggrieved at the turn of events,

Trevor Watkins, the chairman of the trust fund that rescued Bournemouth from extinction this season, is unconvinced by the proposed move. "Until we get all the information, it is difficult to make any solid judgment," he said, "but I can foresee a lot of problems."

"I think it's time for the clubs to cut their cloth accordingly and sort themselves out, but not by regionalisation. We have to get away from the egocentric autonomy of one person running a club. Clubs have now got to be run like a proper business."

A common perception is that, if you throw money at things, it solves the problem, but all it does is mask it. We should look more at the redistribution of wealth, but not use it to hide the problems of the past."

Robin Sharpe, the chief executive of Swansea City, was similarly nonplussed. "We're against the proposals," he said. "I don't think it's right to split up the division and it would be very much a backward step."

John Reames, the Lincoln City chairman and former member of the Football League board, echoed the sentiments. "I really don't think this is on," he said. "I don't believe the clubs from the third division will support this. It doesn't really make a lot of sense, from an economic or football point of view."

Under the new proposals, the 24 third division members would be joined by 14 clubs from the Vauxhall Conference — the League's feeder league — and be split in half. Yet, until the plans are fully revealed, at a press conference in

London today, nobody is quite sure how the promotion and relegation issues would be settled.

However, the report, which could not be implemented until at least the start of the 1998-99 season, does have its supporters. "Regionalisation would have to reduce costs and travel expenses," Ivor Doble, the Exeter City chairman, said. "It would create more derby matches and that's got to be good news."

Peter Hill, the chairman of Hereford United, who were demoted into the Conference on Saturday, said: "We'll be voting in favour. Increasing revenue and lowering overheads is what it's all about. We've loved visiting the likes of Darlington and Hartlepool — they're smashing people but we could all do without the travelling."

## Brazil return to provide masterclass

ROB HUGHES



Overseas View

The impish delicacy with which Juninho laced together and scored a goal at Old Trafford yesterday, followed by the extravagant power with which Emerson scored another for Middlesbrough against Manchester United were reminders of the quality that makes Brazil indisputably football's master race. Brazil needed neither player when they put on a display that exceeded even the style of the 1994 World Cup team in eclipsing Mexico in Miami's Orange Bowl a week ago.

How strange the football world is. A team becomes the best on earth, and then is effectively withdrawn for four years from the competitive cycle of the game. Brazil have no need to qualify for the 1998 World Cup in France and, but for the commercial dealings of Nike, we would hardly see the team in the interim.

Team Nike has filled the vacuum. Nike is sponsoring the Brazilian national team to the tune of \$200 million over ten years, figuring that Brazil is the best country in which to increase its sales.

Nike demands a \$300,000 appearance fee each time that the team plays, but the agreement ensures that the full Brazil team, give or take the Brazilian, will turn out in places such as Miami. For those with a satellite dish, and with stamini to burn, last Wednesday was enlightening and rewarding.

First, from Wembley, there was England versus Georgia. For technique and imagination the match rated, say, six out of ten.

Then came Italy, against Poland in Naples. Italy, liberated under Cesare Maldini, the new coach, who has in turn liberated his son, Paolo, as a cavalier attacking wing back, upped the rating to at least eight out of ten.

And then, come midnight, Eurosport tuned in to Brazil versus Mexico in Miami. It was a stellar performance by Brazil, ten out of ten. In 18 minutes, Brazil, stung by some arrogant pretensions by Mexico, scored three times.

Djalminha, a clever midfield crafter, chipped the ball forward with backspin. Leonardo, in 1994 a defender who smashed his elbow into the face of United States player, Tab Ramos, wore the No 10 shirt that is coveted by Juninho. How elegantly he read the spin on the ball, how expertly he timed his run and how deftly he rolled in the first goal with his left foot.

But if Nike has put the boots on any feet that matter, it has been with their insistence that Romario returns to national prominence. He had burnt his bridges, gone wild in his private and public life, grown fat and addicted to lazing on the beach. Romario, now 31, is suddenly slimmer than we knew him, restored

Cafu, a rejuvenated Marcio Santos, the dependable Andre Cruz and Roberto Carlos. In midfield, solidly anchoring the team, Dunga, now 34, and Mauro Silva with Djalminha and Leonardo free to create. For whom? For Romario and, inevitably, the young god Ronaldo. Football to dream about.

But not all dreams reach fulfilment. Remember, at the start of the year, the story of Mouscron, the Belgian side promoted and leading their championship? All has been lost. Georges Leekens, their coach, defected to lead the national side taking with him Dominique Lemoine and the Zairean-born brothers, Mbo and Emile Mpenza, who have been naturalised to play for Belgium. Soon, oran Vidovic, Mouscron's Serb striker, who has also become a Belgian national, will be called up as well.

Distractions for the Mouscron team, and the town of 53,000 inhabitants has, not surprisingly, seen its team slip away from the leadership.

They now lie ten points behind FC Bruges.

Dreams, unless supported by boot manufacturers, do not come again.

## ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE LOWEST FUEL PRICES?

Day in, day out, we check the prices at petrol stations in your neighbourhood. That's how we aim to ensure that no-one offers lower fuel prices.

**Esso** PRICEWATCH

## RACING: CECIL-TRAINED FILLY OUT OF EPSOM CONTENTION AFTER CONTRACTING LUNG INFECTION



The Peter Hedger-trained Autumn Cover, right, springs a 33-1 surprise by outpacing 15 rivals in the one-mile Jubilee Handicap at Kempton yesterday

## Fascinating Rhythm to miss Oaks

By JULIAN MUSCAT

**FASCINATING RHYTHM**, the ante-post favourite for the Oaks, is almost certainly out of the fillies' classic after contracting the lung infection afflicting inmates of Henry Cecil's stable.

The daughter of Slip Anchor, winner of her sole outing at Nottingham last season, suffered a bout of coughing and her preparation has been brought to a halt. Along with Fiji, another Cecil-trained Oaks candidate, Fascinating Rhythm is resisting the temptation to send Sleepytime to Epsom. Her target

is the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot. "Her long stride might not be suited to the track and I want to give her time to recover," he said. But the trainer still harbours hopes of landing the classic he won 12 months ago with Lady Carla.

remains the Coronation Stakes and that has now developed into a lung infection," the trainer said at Kempton yesterday. "They are over the worst but they must be extremely doubtful. I cannot say how long they will be held up." Details of Fascinating

Ben Moore, a claiming rider attached to Martin Pipe's stable, was detained in Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital for observation last night after a fall from Roberts Toy in the handicap hurdle at Exeter yesterday.

While betting on the Oaks remains unsettled, Entrepreneur strengthened his grip on the Derby by the wake of his impressive 2,000 Guineas victory on Saturday. The Sadler's Wells colt yesterday contracted to odds-on after connections of Revouqe, second at Newmarket, suggested that their colt might decline to be given their chance in Oaks trials later this month.

Hopefully, Reams Of Verse (sixth in the 1,000 Guineas on her seasonal debut) will benefit from racing over further than a mile," Cecil said. "And I have similar hopes for Yashmark (fourteenth in the Newmarket classic), who probably wasn't suited by the fast ground on Sunday." Both are expected to be given their chance in Oaks trials later this month.

Revoque's trainer, Peter Chapple-Hyam, said: "We will give Revoque another piece of work on Friday and take it from there. At present, he is likely to go to the Curragh for the Irish 2,000 Guineas on May 25."

"We are certainly not making any decision about the Derby just yet," Revouqe's trainer, Peter Chapple-Hyam, said. "We will give Revoque another piece of work on Friday and take it from there. At present, he is likely to go to the Curragh for the Irish 2,000 Guineas on May 25."

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Rob Hughes discovers a corner of the equestrian world that will remain forever England



Country style: Dick puts Headley Bravo through his paces in preparation for the Badminton trials

AUSTIN HARGRAVE

## Minor controversy ignites main event

**M**iday on the Berkshire Downs a rider and her steed canter in the shimmering heat. The young woman and her glistening bay gelding are taking their daily exercise, striding out for unity, for movement, for the harmony between human and equine minds that they have developed through six years.

It is a picture of rural England. All is serene, but, at the weekend, Daisy Dick will put her animal to the ultimate test of courage, stamina and faith. They will be riding at Badminton, the most intimidating cross country trial known to man or beast.

"One horse, one rider" has become very much the theme, and the controversy, of Badminton this year. Faced with a record 151 entries, the directors had to do something to whittle the field down to the maximum 80. They chose to limit overseas riders, even the great ones and those based in England, to one horse each, irrespective of the quality of their second and third strings. One withering sentence, from Blyth Tait, the New Zealand-er who is the Olympic champion, rankles with young English entrants:

*"It will be disappointing for the public, who expect to see the best available talent. Instead, they will see the best riders with one horse — along with Samantha Clipperty-Clop from up the road."*

If you wish to stir the competitive hackles of Daisy Dick, try linking her to that.

"I'm certainly not Miss Clipperty-Clop on a cart-horse — or whatever Blyth Tait called her!" Dick said at her home just up the M4 from Badminton. Just as she has never responded to her Christian name, Catherine, she has no intention of rising to the derogatory tone of the master riders who feel that the English entrants should be denied their opportunity over the hallowed and harassing Badminton grounds.

Dick has the benefit of an Oxford education, a degree in zoology... and the pedigree of a family in which her mother, Caroline, rode to twelfth place at Badminton, and her father, Dave, rode a Grand National winner. So it is in the genes: the style, the competitiveness, the refusal to accept that, even in a world that has ignored her best years and come forward with no main sponsor, she and her horse can be denied their tilt at the big one.

"I hope this isn't going to prove the kiss of death," she said, "but my horse has been at it for ages. He's in under his own merit. He's in

his own right. He has a damn sight more points than many of the foreign entries. Fourteen may be an unusual age for him to be experiencing his first Badminton, but there are reasons for that."

Those reasons are both human and equine. Headley Bravo, the horse, has found his feet, literally, after years in which he struggled because of tender soles. The Dick family found him an expert farrier in Ian Belcher, who, day by day, month by month, worked on the horse's feet, strengthening them and reshaping the plates. Now Dick, his owner, insists: "He's a changed horse, and now he's over the problems with his feet. He's more than worth his chance."

And the human element? "Oh, I've changed tactics. I suppose from mum and dad I inherited the madness over cross country. I wanted to win every time out. I didn't prioritise."

"Mum suggested I tried to ride him with a bit more care, he's a bit less wild. It's working, he's galloping through now at the finish, though if I'm not purple in the face when we come to the end of Badminton, then I'm sure the family will think I haven't given it everything. You don't have to go hell for leather in the minor three-day events, but for Badminton, you must prepare to give every last ounce."

through a tunnel of thousands of people, the horse can't see the next fence, can't anticipate it, and it is up to you to transmit to him what is coming."

Dick cannot be certain of the next turn in her own life. She bought Headley Bravo as a young rider's horse, initially with ambitions in show-jumping. She won her first class one three-day event, on Little Victor, at Windsor, at the age of 20, and has been striving for another triumph ever since. It has been elusive, although last year she had four lesser victories on Headley Bravo and finished third in the Scottish championships, third at Booket, in Holland, and ranks in the top ten in this country; indeed, the European listing puts Headley Bravo third.

"My ambition is to try to get a really nice team of horses," she said. "I wouldn't want more than five or six, but I do need to improve the quality if I am to challenge really top riders like Mary Thomson and Blyth Tait. But I'm aware that I've got a degree to fall back on. I can't keep on leaching off my parents for ever. If I did really well this season, and still didn't find a sponsor, I might have to start thinking of working for a living."

That, however, is not up-  
permost in her mind. First is the challenge, and the privilege, of being a British competitor at Badminton. At Oxford University, she rowed and played lacrosse for Worcester College. No equestrianism? "I applied to the Oxford Riding Club and they asked how high I could jump," she said. "I replied that it depended what horse I was riding, and I didn't bother with the riding club."

Independent, unswayed, she feels that she has earned the right to join the club at Badminton, and the words of the late Lieutenant Colonel Frank Weldon, the designer who set up Badminton as the most intimidating test of horsemanship, come to mind: "It's the blood that counts in human beings too."



You must prepare to give every last ounce'

row, when the entrants have trotted up their horses before the vets, there will be no suspect partnerships entered for the 1997 Badminton.

It will be a compelling spectacle. *Le concours complet*, as the French call three-day events, requires, on consecutive days, the control of dressage, a measured leaping quality across country, and then the precision of showjumping. More than that, as Dick has found, it examines the mental toughness of the partnership. "You can walk the course four times, measure every fence and decide every angle in your mind," she said, "and on the Saturday, you find you are galloping

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The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

### GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Pos.	pts	val
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0 -12	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0 -14	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	1 +37	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0 0	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0 +1	
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	3 +26	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	2 +17	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	3 -5	
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0 +4	
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	1 -2	
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	0 +30	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0 +10	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0 +27	
10603	F Grodus	Chelsea	3.00	5 +6	
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	3 -41	
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0 0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0 -2	
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	0 +41	
10804	M Poom	Derby County	1.00	1 -3	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0 +4	
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0 +10	
10903	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.50	5 +4	
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	1 -56	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	5 -33	
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0 +1	
11201	D Rousset	Hearts	2.00	0 -5	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	5 -29	
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	5 -36	
11501	M Beenen	Leeds United	1.50	0 +5	
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0 0	
11503	N Marth	Leeds United	2.50	5 +41	
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0 -19	
11603	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	5 -22	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	1 +14	
11702	T Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0 0	
11703	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0 0	
11801	R Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	3 +3	
11802	R Van Der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0 +2	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -20	
11903	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	2.00	0 -4	
11904	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	0 -22	
20001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0 -22	
21001	S Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00	0 -18	
21002	P Smicer	Newcastle United	3.00	5 +5	
21201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0 -49	
21202	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	1 -1	
21203	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	3 -7	
21204	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0 +28	
21205	B Dibble	Rangers	3.50	0 +10	
21206	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0 -15	
21207	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 0	
21208	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0 -28	
21209	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0 +2	
21210	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	5 +8	
21212	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	5 -37	
11803	T Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0 +9	
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	3 -11	
12802	E Baarden	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	1 +1	
12901	L Miskoski	West Ham United	2.00	1 -22	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	1 -2	
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0 4	



Paul Kitson, of West Ham, ITF-rated at £15 million, celebrates the second of his three goals against Sheffield Wednesday

### DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Pos.	pts	val
30001	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	0 +8	
30101	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	1 -38	
30201	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0 +49	
30301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	4 +39	
30302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	2 +63	
30303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0 0	
30304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	2 +46	
30305	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	1 -28	
30401	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	1 +30	
30403	J Kenne	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	1 +21	
30404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 +2	
30405	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	0 +38	
30501	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	0 +23	
30601	D Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00	4 +31	
30602	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.00	0 +7	
30603	R Mola	Chelsea	1.00	3 -1	
30604	D McPherson	Chelsea	1.00	0 +10	
30605	D Ritchie	Chelsea	1.00	0 +34	
30606	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	3 -4	
30607	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	0 +9	
30608	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0 -3	
30609	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0 -19	
30610	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	2 +13	
30611	R Montgomerie	Kilmarnock	0.75	2 +12	
30612	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	4 +42	
30613	R Jobson	Leeds United	1.00	1 -4	
30614	L Radice	Leeds United	1.00	1 +21	
30615	D Bennett	Leeds United	1.00	0 +10	
30616	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0 +28	
30617	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0 +30	
30618	D Whyte	Liverpool	3.00	1 +23	
30619	P Whelan	Liverpool	1.00	0 +14	
30620	G Festa	Middlesbrough	1.00	0 +7	
30621	D Bowmore	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -2	
30622	V Kinsella	Middlesbrough	1.00	0 +12	
30623	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	2 -3	
30624	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	4 +51	
30625	A Dorigo	Leeds United	2.50	4 +20	
30626	E Barrett	Leeds United	1.00	4 +40	
30627	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0 +25	
30628	N Polnton	Hearts	1.00	0 +24	
30629	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0 +7	
30630	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0 +12	
30631	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0 +10	
30632	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0 +4	
30633	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0 +55	
30634	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	1 +45	
30635	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0 +10	
30636	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0 -5	
30637	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	3 -6	
30638	M Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0 +14	
30639	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	2 -3	
30640	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	2 +16	
30641	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0 +25	
30642	N Polnton	Hearts	1.00	0 +14	
30643	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0 +7	
30644	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0 +12	
30645	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0 +10	
30646	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0 +4	
30647	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0 +55	
30648	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	1 +45	
30649	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0 +10	
30650	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0 -5	
30651	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	3 -6	
30652	M Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0 +14	
30653	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	2 -3	
30654	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	2 +16	
30655	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0 +25	
30656	N Polnton	Hearts	1.00	0 +14	
30657	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0 +7	
30658	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0 +12	
30659	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0 +10	
30660	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0 +4	
30661	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0 +55	
30662	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	1 +45	
30663	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0 +10	

# Solid English defence holds line for Scottish Cadete force



ANONYMITY, more usually the preserve of pools winners, has taken over the Interactive Team Football game this week. The weekly prize-winner did not give his or her name or address when making the entry by telephone.

However, it has not stopped the selections scoring 39 points for the team without a name, which wins the £250 weekly prize. We have the personal identification number of the winner, who should contact the telephone number given below to claim the prize.

The team offers a striking north-south divide, relying on the parsimony of a goalkeeper and defence taken from the FA Carling Premiership, while both the strikers are taken from the Bell's Scottish League.

Nigel Martyn, of Leeds United, who kept a clean sheet against Chelsea on Saturday, was the team's joint-top scorer, with five points, along with Jorge Cadete, of Celtic, who scored two goals against Hibernian on Sunday.

Valued by ITF at £6 million, Cadete is the most expensive player in the team, but, having accrued 38 points, he appears to be money well spent and compares favourably with some of the more expensive strikers that are on offer.

The team is:

Goalkeeper  
N Martyn (Leeds)

Full backs  
G Hall (Leeds)  
D Petrescu (Chelsea)

Central defenders  
S Bilec (West Ham)  
A Adams (Arsenal)

Middlefield players  
Juninho (Middlesbrough)  
P McGinlay (Hibernian)  
D Beckham (Man Utd)

## THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

There are no transfers or loaned players in Interactive Team Football this week



Cadete was a star performer for Celtic and the manager of the unknown week's winner of Interactive Team Football



P Di Canio (Celtic)

Strikers  
D Jackson (Hibernian)  
J Cadete (Celtic)

Manager  
G Strachan (Coventry)

You can still use the ITF transfer system, even though the regular transfer system has ended for the season, which allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

The team is:

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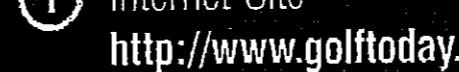


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#### EMPLOYMENTS

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#### GENERAL EMERGING MARKETS

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International bank with City base seeks a senior capital markets advisor with extensive experience in structured finance. You will be a key member of a team of problem solvers in a role of now a high priority. A partner or partner designate is required to assist with present business development and to maintain a network of contacts with other law firms who can act as a focal point for this group. The firm is well placed to "lead" work in its UK law firm in the early months. (Ref: T3549)

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## LAW

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● LAW REPORT 34

# An alternative to libel

**Gary Slapper**  
on the ancient  
legal course  
taken by a  
pop singer

**W**hen Kirk Brandon, a pop musician, sued the singer Boy George for malicious falsehood and fought the case in the High Court last week — in the event, unsuccessfully — many people were left wondering: how, if at all, this arcane legal action is different from that of defamation.

The action has been used in several prominent cases, including last year's battle between Rupert Allison and Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary.

In that case the former MP sued Mr Campbell, who was political editor of the *Daily Mirror* at the relevant time in 1992, another journalist and Mirror Group Newspapers. Representing himself, Mr Allison claimed that Mr Campbell had conducted a campaign of spite against him. The alleged malicious falsehood came from Mirror journalists who, it was claimed, had fabricated a story that 50 MPs had challenged Mr Allison to hand over to Maxwell pensioners an estimated £250,000 he had won in libel damages from the newspaper.

The ancient action is in essence a claim that an untrue statement was made by the defendant with malice, and that as a result the plaintiff suffered financial loss. In 1699, the case of *Dickes v Fenne*, concerned what was described as "naughty beer". The plaintiff, a brewer, sued Mr Fenne who had said, in front of other customers, that if he gave his mate a peck of malt, "she should piss as good beer as Dickes doth brew". The action failed because the brewer did not prove any loss following from the insult.

Since legislation in 1952, it is not necessary to prove actual damage in instances in which the falsehood is published or put on a record and the words are likely to cause financial loss. But not all published falsehoods are seen by the courts in this way. In that case, loss has to be proved.

Mr Allison lost his claim on this point. The trial judge ended Mr Allison's run of 22 court victories when he ruled that though he accepted that the *Mirror* story was false and had been published by MGN with malice, there was no evidence of financial damage resulting from the publication, and that the mistruth had later been corrected with an apology.

The subject matter of these actions is quite varied. One



Kirk Brandon, left, unsuccessfully sued the singer Boy George, right, for malicious falsehood last week



earlier case flowed from a false claim that the plaintiff was married, which resulted in her losing a real proposal. In other cases the falsehoods have included statements that a business person has ceased to trade, or that his products are defective. Stéphane Grappelli, the jazz violinist, once took an action for malicious falsehood against his former agents after they had cancelled a series of concerts which they had set up without his knowledge. To get themselves out of the unauthorised arrangements, the agents falsely said that Mr Grappelli was seriously ill and it would be surprising if he ever toured again.

Legal aid is not available for libel actions but it is for malicious falsehood, and the unusual action has enjoyed a little re-vival since a case in 1993 in which the Court of Appeal ruled that a woman should not be prevented from bringing such an action just because it would more appropriately have been brought as a libel action.

The newspaper *Today* had published an article by its chief crime correspondent suggesting that Linda Joyce, one of Princess Anne's maids, had stolen her royal employer's private letters and handed them to a national newspaper. The article implied that she had been dismissed as a consequence of this breach of trust. Miss Joyce could not afford to

bring an action without legal aid, but because this is not given to libel plaintiffs, she opted to sue for malicious falsehood.

The Court of Appeal refused to strike out her choice of suit as an abuse of process. Sir Donald Nicholls, the then Vice-Chancellor, said: "English law has marked out courses of action on which plaintiffs may rely. Many courses of action overlap, where more than one course of action is available to him, a plaintiff may choose which one he will pursue."

There are some cases that are genuinely better brought as malicious falsehoods than as any other type of action. These include situations where a person is injured by a statement but where his reputation does not suffer, for example, a claim that the seller of land is not the real legal owner. But many of today's instances are of what a judge once described as a case of defamation "being forced into the ill-fitting garb of an action for malicious falsehood".

Often this makes things unnecessarily difficult for a plaintiff. Unlike defamation cases, these trials are not generally heard by juries, and the damages awarded are usually lower than those in defamation actions. Damages will generally be quickly swallowed up by the Legal-Aid Board's charge over

them as property recovered in the proceedings.

In actions for malicious falsehood, the plaintiff has to take on the burden of proving that the words were false and that in publishing them the defendant was actuated by malice, tasks not required of defamation plaintiffs.

Malicious falsehood is used instead of libel action not only by those who rely on legal aid.

It is also resorted to by some plaintiffs who cannot get legal aid but fearing that costs may go against them, want a relatively low-cost non-jury trial.

What all this highlights is that the framework and funding of the law protecting reputation is not entirely satisfactory.

● Dr Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law at Staffordshire University.

## Lord Irvine takes office

LORD "Derry" Irvine of Lairg, QC, friend and mentor to Tony Blair, will be sworn in tomorrow as Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain — to give him his full title — at the law courts in The Strand.

In a ceremony that underlines his role as head of the judiciary, as well as government Minister, he will be flanked by the Lord Chief Justice and other heads of division, and then the Clerk of the Crown (Sir Tom Legg, permanent secretary to the Lord Chancellor's Department) will administer the oaths. The Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms and the Purser Bearer are also present. Lord Irvine, 57, will play a key role in constitutional reform. He has also promised a review of legal aid and civil justice.

**Holding the fort**  
PITY the poor lawyers at Allen & Overy's Brussels office last Thursday. While support staff took advantage of an official Belgian holiday to enjoy the

sun, the lawyers had to work a full day. They were not alone.

Other fully operational offices included those of Ashurst Morris Crisp and Bird & Denton Hall and Gouldens, which get the prize for being the most generous and efficient, with answer machines available 24 hours a day. Clifford Chance and Slaughter & May the lawyers must have been in such a hurry to get away that they forgot to turn on the answer machine, leaving the phones to ring and ring.

● Cameron Mackay Hewitt and McKenna & Co sealed the knot on their merger as the country went to the polls last Thursday. Now called Cameron McKenna, the firm claims to be Europe's eighth largest. To celebrate, it has opened a new office appropriately in the new Labour era, in Gdańsk, the Polish city that gave birth to Solidarity.

**Power struggle**  
WITH a Bill of Rights on the political agenda, Sweet & Maxwell's special issue of *European Human Rights Law Review* is timely. It has contributions from leading human rights lawyers, including Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, Connor Gearty, professor at King's College London, and John Wadham, the director of Liberty.

The conference, which will attract lawyers from throughout the world, is being organised by Michael Hill, QC, a leading criminal silk. Full details next week.

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Application forms are available until 4pm on Friday 16 May 1997. Completed application forms must be received by 4pm Friday 23 May 1997.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

In law, as in business, the days of insular attitudes are over, says Edward Fennell

## Successful City firms embrace global era

Last Thursday's events were marked in the legal world by a pair of coincidences which underscored the sense we were truly 'leaving one era and entering another.'

As voters went to the polling stations, the partners of Clifford Chance, led by Geoffrey Howe and Keith Clark, were celebrating the tenth anniversary of that landmark event, the merger of Coward Chance and Clifford-Turner.

Meanwhile, just 50 yards down the road the partners of the newly merged Cameron McKenna were enjoying their first day as an integrated unit.

The merger had created a new Top Ten firm whose ambitions are clearly set on bursting into the 'magic circle' led by Clifford Chance, the benchmark against which all others must be measured.

No firm embodies better what has happened to the practice of business law under the Thatcher and Major administrations than Clifford Chance. Its dramatic progress towards becoming one of the contenders for the world title stems from the way it read the trends in the Conservative boom days of the late 1980s. Its senior partners saw the globalisation of business and recognised that lawyers had to match that trend. And when, in the midst of the recession in the early 1990s, other firms cut back on

overseas investment, it continued to expand — and now it is reaping the benefits by being ahead of anyone else.

The Thatcher/Major business revolution made lawyers become business people in their own right. But the big City lawyers, perhaps more than anyone else, benefited directly and immeasurably from the Tories' love affair with privatisation. They were the technicians who made privatisation work and are now starting to do the same with the private finance initiative. Not only did this bring in massive amounts of work at the time but it also gave them the credentials to do the same elsewhere, as the British experience was imitated worldwide.

And it is the international scope of their work which will enable Clifford Chance and its new rivals to glide smoothly into the new era. While the political scene has been riven by the debate over Europe, the top law firms have seen that the days of insular attitudes are gone for good. Clifford Chance now has 38 per cent of its people overseas and about half of its work is international. It sees itself irreversibly as a global firm.

This is echoed by rivals such as Freshfields. As Ian Terry, the firm's managing partner commented last week: 'The most profound change in the last 20 years has been the



Keith Clark, left, and Geoffrey Howe: leading Clifford Chance into its second decade

dynamic growth in the international market for legal services. If your aspiration, like ours, is to be one of the best, you have to commit to years of investment and to becoming truly multicultural.'

Much the same is said by Eversheds, which is now the UK's leading "national" firm but also sees that the future for the best firms must lie far beyond the UK. Looking back on the last 15 years, Eversheds chairman Keith James said last week: 'The general trend towards globalisation in every

area of business — including the law — means that we cannot focus on the domestic market alone. We believe our clients need to have their interests represented throughout Europe and we are implementing strategies to deal with this.'

That is why, for City lawyers, as much as for anyone else, the flavour of the new epoch is likely to depend on the outcome of the economic and monetary union project and its impact on London as a financial centre. By becoming a glo-

bal firm, Clifford Chance will be able to withstand the turbulence ahead better than most. For Cameron McKenna, however, the challenge remains. If its merger is to be considered a success ten years hence, somehow it must raise its game and be a contender along the lines of Clifford Chance, Freshfields, Linklaters & Paines and Allen & Overy.

So who will blossom under Blair? The answer is: those firms for which the matter of who occupies No 10 is no longer so important.

With a new Government elected, magistrates will be bracing themselves for more change. Change is likely in the law and in their role. Since 1989 legislation has

poised out in Act after Act, requiring justices to follow a steep learning curve, which is particularly onerous on those who give their time and effort for no monetary reward. Yet they have embraced extra training with enthusiasm: it is only recently that an air of demoralisation has appeared. Rightly or wrongly, many of them feel they are being sidelined.

They are accused of being too slow, yet in my experience it is not so much the fault of the justices as in the paper-driven system forced on us by the so-called paperless society of the computer. It ought to work more efficiently but it does not, and cases are said to take an average of 132 days to get through compared with 98 days ten years ago. Then there is the attitude of some court users. Recently our bench discovered that witnesses had been 'de-warmed' on the assumption that we would grant an adjournment.

It is, 'the representative of the Crown Prosecution Service said, 'only the first trial date.'

We insisted that the case go ahead, principally because of the age of the defendants — 13 and 14 respectively — and because the next trial date could not be fixed for another three months. After all, it is for the justices alone to decide on an adjournment.

This situation may not last much longer. Recently, the Justices' Clerks Society has made suggestions about taking on what it claims are only administrative jobs designed to speed up justice. Yet if clerks can decide on such matters as adjournments, bail matters, fixing trial dates and discontinuing cases, they will be taking on roles previously held by the justices.

This problem of judicial and administrative boundaries is now being examined by a working party in the Lord Chancellor's Department. Nonetheless, lay magistrates are starting to believe that this is the thin end of the wedge and that their powers are likely to be eroded.

Should Jack Straw have his way in relation to youth courts, we are likely to see the stipendiaries hear cases and the justices who are left decide on the sentence. Given that those who hear a case should ideally be those who judge it, this seems a retrograde step as much for the accused as for the youth court justices. 'If anything,' one stipendiary said, 'it should be the other way round.'

Indeed, in the higher courts it is the jury that decides guilt or innocence on the facts and the judge who advises on the law and passes sentence if required. Only stipendiaries, when they are sitting alone, can be the equivalent of

both judge and jury. Mr Straw, however, seems more interested in giving the professionals an inquisitorial role like that of an examining magistrate.

If that should become law then youth justices can kiss their role goodbye. It would be better surely to have a mixed bench — already operating in some youth and family courts — where justices sit either side of the stipendiary. This idea was put forward by a Royal Commission as long ago as 1948, when the members recommended a mixed bench which would combine the expertise of the professional with the public appeal of the lay justice.

This appeal seems to me to lie in the fact that lay justices usually sit in a local area which they know well and in courts where the local police station and probation offices are near by. Yet though this may still be true in the country, the proposed closure of courts in inner London could mean the demise of truly local justice.

Last month a strategic plan for the inner London courts was published. Designed to bring the inner London area into line with the rest of the country, it will lead — subject to statutory consultation — to the dissolution of the West Central Division and the closure of more courts. So what you might say. Crime takes place all over London and people can travel to the larger courts expected to take over the work. So far as justices are

concerned this is true, but what about the court users, such as the accused and their families? Already some of them cannot afford the fares. A local solicitor in Islington warns that adjournments are likely to increase in the youth courts because parents cannot get to court 'until the Giro comes'.

The strategic plan is about saving money. The government grant is expected to reduce year on year and there are falling levels of work in the adult courts. Yet if the 17-year-olds go back to the adult courts, as seems likely, the work will undoubtedly increase.

The cost of magistrates' courts in London is said to be twice that of those outside the capital but that should hardly be surprising. It is reckoned that the cost per case in inner London in 1995 was £41.17 as against £24.10 in the rest of the country.

Yet it has been obvious for years — and London weighting shows it — that any capital city is going to be more expensive in every way. Four courts were closed in 1996 and cases moved to the new West London court. Three more are due to close by the year 2000. But no one knows what will happen to the crime rate in the next three years.

• The author is an inner London magistrate.

## Justices may face erosion of powers

Many magistrates are apprehensive about likely changes to their role, writes Paula Davies

With a new Government elected, magistrates will be bracing themselves for more change. Change is likely in the law and in their role. Since 1989 legislation has

poised out in Act after Act, requiring justices to follow a steep learning curve, which is particularly onerous on those who give their time and effort for no monetary reward. Yet

they have embraced extra training with enthusiasm: it is only recently that an air of demoralisation has appeared. Rightly or wrongly, many of them feel they are being sidelined.

They are accused of being too slow, yet in my experience it is not so much the fault of the justices as in the paper-driven system forced on us by the so-called paperless society of the computer. It ought to work more efficiently but it does not, and cases are said to take an average of 132 days to get through compared with 98 days ten years ago. Then there is the attitude of some court users. Recently our bench discovered that witnesses had been 'de-warmed' on the assumption that we would grant an adjournment.

It is, 'the representative of the Crown Prosecution Service said, 'only the first trial date.'

We insisted that the case go ahead, principally because of the age of the defendants — 13 and 14 respectively — and because the next trial date could not be fixed for another three months. After all, it is for the justices alone to decide on an adjournment.

This situation may not last much longer. Recently, the Justices' Clerks Society has made suggestions about taking on what it claims are only administrative jobs designed to speed up justice. Yet if clerks can decide on such matters as adjournments, bail matters, fixing trial dates and discontinuing cases, they will be taking on roles previously held by the justices.

This problem of judicial and administrative boundaries is now being examined by a working party in the Lord Chancellor's Department. Nonetheless, lay magistrates are starting to believe that this is the thin end of the wedge and that their powers are likely to be eroded.

Should Jack Straw have his way in relation to youth courts, we are likely to see the stipendiaries hear cases and the justices who are left decide on the sentence. Given that those who hear a case should ideally be those who judge it, this seems a retrograde step as much for the accused as for the youth court justices. 'If anything,' one stipendiary said, 'it should be the other way round.'

Indeed, in the higher courts it is the jury that decides guilt or innocence on the facts and the judge who advises on the law and passes sentence if required. Only stipendiaries, when they are sitting alone, can be the equivalent of

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### EMPLOYMENT

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Ambitious, entrepreneurial but nervous of striking out? This is the ideal opportunity as it is a new department in London headed by a well known and highly respected practitioner with additional backup and resources from the firm's other offices, which also enjoys a leading reputation in the employment field. Applicants must have had good practical experience acting for employers, including advocacy. Ref: T001753.D

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### FINANCIAL SERVICES

**2 to 5 Years Qualified** **to £60,000+**

City firm with internationally renowned corporate practice now seeks an additional ISA specialist to join its very active unit. The division advises on all regulatory issues, insider dealing and disclosure requirements. A high level of client contact is encouraged and therefore good communication skills as well as technical ability are essential. Ref: T11352.G

### CORPORATE

**Sept 1997 NQ to 3 Years Qualified to £58,000**  
The busy London office of a US New York based firm (MNP) is looking for junior corporate lawyers to handle a range of work including mergers & acquisitions, joint ventures, project finance and general corporate finance/commercial advice. The department handles a range of work and therefore candidates must be willing to remain generalists. Partners are from the top ten firms and are equally looking for assistants who have gained their corporate experience from a City firm. International work acting for high profile clients but not in a 'factory' environment. Ref: T11808.E

### IN-HOUSE LAWYER/CO SEC

**3 to 10 Years Qualified** **to £65,000 (package)**

Public limited company with its head office based in the heart of the City is seeking a commercial lawyer to act as its in-house legal adviser/company secretary. The role will involve substantial responsibility, advising on a wide range of both legal and commercial issues affecting the company as well as company secretarial matters. No company secretarial experience is required, however candidates should have good company/commercial experience gained either from private practice or in-house. Ref: T00152.E

### PROJECT FINANCE

**Partner Designate** **£58,000 equivalent**

Leading US practice, widely regarded as having one of the main Project Finance teams in the City, requires a senior assistant to advise sponsors, investors, lenders, suppliers and other participants in large scale projects, including hydroelectric power, petrochemicals, pipelines, oil and gas and mining. The firm will discuss partnership in the short term and a premium remuneration package is on offer. Ref: T00926.C

### PLANNING

**3 to 6 Years Qualified** **to £63,000**

This is a department within a City practice which has seen a substantial increase in high calibre instructions for the last four months and, consequently, requires a further planning specialist to concentrate on a wide range of transactions for local planning authority clients. Genuine partnership prospects and a high level of autonomy. Ref: T00178.G

### BANKING

**2 to 4 Years Qualified** **£100,000+**

A major UK bank is looking to recruit a lawyer to handle a broad range of activities. This will include drafting and negotiating banking agreements, working on special projects and initiatives, dealing with sophisticated financial products in the capital markets and giving legal support to client teams. Candidates must have a general banking background combined with some capital markets experience. This role would suit someone who works well independently and is ready to take on responsibility at a junior level. Ideally candidates will be from one of the top London banking firms or an in-house role at a major bank. Ref: T10503.E

## CURRENT CONTRACTS

### EMERGING MARKETS

London based investment bank seeks a solicitor/barrister with a minimum of 3 years' experience in emerging markets to join the legal team for a 3-6 month contract. Experience required must include funded loans, securities and repos. Immediate start. Ref: 39709.

### EMPLOYMENT

Leading engineering/construction company based in the Home Counties seeks a solicitor/barrister with 3+ years' experience to assist senior solicitor in department. Experience of industrial tribunal advocacy would be advantageous and contract could become permanent. Ref: 39545.

### COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

Legal Department of this public sector group wishes to recruit a solicitor for a 6 month contract to start immediately. Experience of drafting contracts, in particular, IT contracts, essential. Ref: 28643.

### PLANNING

Progressive City firm needs 2-6 year qualified solicitor to assist busy department. Candidates should have strong academics as well as recent experience in a City firm environment. Immediate start. Ref: 39814.

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Small, but well regarded City firm, requires a 2-8 year qualified solicitor with a broad base of experience including landlord and tenant matters. Contract is for about 3 months whilst they pursue a permanent search. Ref: 39493.

### PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

Large legal department of finance house based in the Midlands needs a 4-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister. Contract is for 3-6 months and requires specialist expertise in professional negligence against solicitors and valuers. Ref: 39992.

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

Major investment company situated in Southern Home Counties needs 5+ years' qualified solicitor/barrister with in-depth knowledge of financial services industry. Applicants will be advising on unit trusts, investment trusts, compliance and a range of commercial agreements. Ref: 39934.

### NON FEE-EARNING

Banking lawyer sought by the London office of a leading American law firm to assist with updating precedents and in particular with the drafting of finance procedures. Position could be part or full-time. Ref: 39613.

### CAPITAL MARKETS

Investment house seeks a solicitor/barrister with around 2 years' ppc to assist with a heavy workload. Candidates should ideally have experience of master agreements, ISDA documentation and repos. Ref: 37953.

### CRIMINAL LITIGATION

1/2 solicitors/barristers sought by national commercial law firm in their London office. Immediate start, to assist with 2 major cases. Candidates must have had at least 2 years' relevant heavyweight experience for 3-6 month contract, which could become permanent. Ref: 39930.

## Commercial Lawyer

### Head of Legal (designate)

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Our client is strategically organised into three global divisions - one of which is currently seeking a Commercial Lawyer to assume the role of Divisional Head of Legal within 6-12 months (initially acting as deputy).



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# A success built on scrap

**Della Mason on a worldwide business that grew out of leftovers from a home restoration**



Tessa Pearce's company, Dorset Reclamation, sells reclaimed parts of old buildings around the world

**SMALL** companies keen to learn about technology before buying are among participants at Hertfordshire IT Centre, which offers all-day training, seminars for owners and a weekly open evening with internet access. Microsoft, UUNet, Pipex, the Internet company, and banks are backing the centre, run by Business Link and Neotel. Tim Parfitt, 01727 813623

**AN** environmental lending initiative has been introduced by NatWest under which medium-sized companies obtain finance for projects that will lessen any harmful impact on the environment. The scheme, being run by NatWest's corporate banking services, offers a 50 per cent reduction in published arrangement fees.

**H**ome Business Alliance has set up what is claimed to be the first credit union for business people. The alliance has started a savings group, the necessary forerunner of a credit union, and is now awaiting approval. Send four first-class stamps to Home Business Alliance, The Firs, High Street, March, Cambs, PE15 9LQ.

**T**he first trade missions in the EU four-year Gateway to Japan export promotion campaign for small and medium-sized businesses will be medical equipment, from September 29 to October 3; marine equipment, October 13 to 17; food and drink, October 27 to 31; construction materials, November 10 to 14; and waste management, December 8 to 12. Details: 0121 454 6171.

**T**essa Pearce did not expect to become a company trading around the world when nine years ago she launched her small firm to sell reclaimed parts of old buildings.

Now the customers for solid oak and pine timbers, tiles, bricks, doors and period bathrooms are often from Japan, America and Europe. This side of the business has increased annual turnover by 20 per cent, to well over £300,000.

As the number of British buyers has levelled out owing to the vagaries of the housing market, her market has spread throughout the world and Dorset Reclamation has had to change fast to cope.

Mrs Pearce started in her courtyard at Bere Regis almost by chance. She and her husband David, moved there from London, and having completed their own house restoration, found masses of materials left over so they advertised.

So many customers beat a path to their door that Mrs Pearce decided she had found an interesting market niche. There are sinks, cisterns, baths, fireplaces, lights, chimney pots, door knobs and taps. Local electricians, plumbers and

Mrs Pearce's own work team recondition and repair items that may have been in use for a century. Washing and cleaning of a reclaimed paving slabs and quarry tiles goes on most days, while container lorries are filled with anything from old English house bricks to flooring for shipment abroad.

Her entry into exporting was dramatic. One Bank Holiday a Japanese caller rang seeking traditional bricks for a large housing

project. "We have been supplying him ever since," she says.

So many customers were coming from abroad that Mrs Pearce realised that if she could find the right freight lines at the right price she would be able to expand. "It meant a lot of research to find the best methods of transport for our varying materials, but we now have this aspect well organised."

With a new manager in training, Alex Tizard; an outside yard

manager, Stephen Haycock; and a team of three other men, Mrs Pearce feels the business can grow steadily into the 21st century.

Yet, five years ago the firm almost did not survive. At that stage, her husband branched into reconditioning of Aga cookers, for which he now finds a steady market, including a recent installation in Brussels.

*Dorset Reclamation can be contacted on 01299 472200.*

## Telecom operators set to target small firms

BY BRIAN COLLETT

**T**HE NEW breed of telecoms operator will soon be pitching hard against BT and other companies for slices of the small business market.

A report, issued ahead of June's Business Solutions show, makes the prediction and suggests the alternative operators will gain orders more easily than expected because many small companies are unhappy with their telecoms suppliers and manufacturers.

EPS Events, the west London company that drew up the report and is organising the show, says the information technology sector has been slow to target the lucrative small business market and adds that a similar lack of interest from the established telecoms industry has left the way clear for new operators, including offshoots of foreign companies.

This criticism is rejected by the two main telephone providers. BT says that it offers a wide range of services to businesses of all sizes; Mercury that it has a wide range of tailor-made packages for small customers.

However, the EPS report contends that the climate could not be better for newer telecoms companies to compete. On average, small and medium-sized businesses are spending £27,000 each on telecoms every year and more than one third expect to invest in new services and equipment in the next 12 months.

Another survey, by MORI, the political pollster, and Telia, part of the Swedish national telecoms company, claims that half the small businesses contacted were dissatisfied with BT and Mercury. The aggrieved customers complained they had to ask for services as the established telecoms companies gave less attention to them than to large corporations.

Jill Naeem, marketing communications manager of Telia, which is sponsoring the Business Solutions show, said: "Our research indicates that smaller companies are demanding a better deal." The show, featuring a wide range of business services available to small enterprises, is at Olympia, west London, from June 17 to 19. Details: 0701 0709 901.

**W**ind tunnel experiments for the first time have been carried out on the new Boeing 747-400. The aircraft, which is due to enter service in 1999, has been modified to allow the aircraft to be tested in a wind tunnel. The first test flight is scheduled for late 1998.

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### TENDERS AND CONTRACTS

#### GOVERNMENT OF BALOCHISTAN BALOCHISTAN COMMUNITY IRRIGATION AND AGRICULTURE PROJECT: PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES

##### Invitation for Bids

Date: 30 April 1997  
Credit No: 2785 PAK  
IFC No: BCIV/SH/01-04

1. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, represented by the Government of Balochistan, has received a credit from the International Finance Corporation for the Balochistan Community Irrigation and Agriculture Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be repaid to eligible payments under the contracts for Procurement of Vehicles. Contract BCIV/SH/01-04 includes:

2. The Government of Balochistan, represented by the Project Director of the Balochistan Community Irrigation and Agriculture Project, of the Department of Irrigation and Power, has issued tenders for the supply of approximately forty vehicles of four wheel and two wheel drive off-road type specification, briefly described as follows:

3. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Project Director, Irrigation and Power, Balochistan, Pakistan, Tel: 084-91 822 821 or 822 822. Requests for tenders should be submitted to the above office on or before 12 noon on Monday, 14 June 1997 and must be accompanied by a security deposit of 10% of the tender amount.

4. Tenders will be opened at the office of the Project Director, Irrigation and Power, Balochistan, Pakistan, Tel: 084-91 822 821 or 822 822. Requests for tenders should be submitted to the above office on or before 12 noon on Monday, 14 June 1997 and must be accompanied by a security deposit of 10% of the tender amount.

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29. Tenders will be opened at the office of the Project Director, Irrigation and Power, Balochistan, Pakistan, Tel: 084-

## Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Market	Company	Price	Wk	Yld	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
415.00	Afford Distillers	42.1 - 42.5	42.0	10.0	12.0
350.00	Angus (Pty)	51.0 - 52.0	51.0	10.0	12.0
200.00	Brown-Forman	61.0 - 62.0	61.0	10.0	12.0
124.40	Germania A	91.0 - 92.0	91.0	10.0	12.0
10.014.00	Group 4	10.0 - 10.5	10.0	10.0	12.0
431.70	Highland Park	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
244.70	Midwest Distillers	11.0 - 11.5	11.0	10.0	12.0
5.346.00	SA Breweries	37.0 - 37.5	37.0	7.0	12.0

## BANKS

YOY	Company	Price	Wk	Yld	PE
M4	ABSA	60.0 - 61.0	60.0	10.0	12.0
Pan	Barclays	58.0 - 59.0	58.0	10.0	12.0
CEI	Bank Atlantic & Leic	52.0 - 53.0	52.0	10.0	12.0
Con	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
Mf	Bankers Trust	7.0 - 7.5	7.0	10.0	12.0
roa	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
Pro	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
R	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
The	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
pre	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
for	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
a c	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
Ter	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
Abl	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
Th	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
Pal	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
Ty	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
st	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
Pri	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
No	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
In	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
Sd	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
up	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
Sz	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
art	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
an	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
Ca	Bankers Trust	12.0 - 12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0
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## US in line for cheap phone calls

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE US Federal Communications Commission is near agreement on a plan designed to offer consumers the largest cut in long-distance phone rates ever, its chairman says.

The plan would reduce by \$1.7 billion the fees that long-distance carriers pay local phone companies to use their networks.

AT&T, the biggest long-distance carrier, has promised to pass on all of the savings to all its customers, with rate cuts of 5 per cent to 15 per cent. "That is the key that unlocks the door," said Reed Hundt, FCC chairman.

FCC officials must also find an additional \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year to hook up schools, libraries and hospitals to the Internet computer network. The agency is due to vote on the plan next week.

Agency officials said the latest breakthrough came after AT&T agreed to pass to consumers all the savings it receives from a cut of at least \$1.7 billion in the yearly \$23 billion that long-distance companies pay local carriers.

Previous access-rate cuts have been passed on only to business users and residential customers on special calling plans.

### The Scottish Provident Institution

The 159th Annual General Meeting of members of the Scottish Provident Institution will be held on Tuesday 27 May 1997 at 12 noon in the Caledonian Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh, to consider the Accounts and Balance Sheet and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors, to elect Directors, to determine the remuneration of the Directors and to elect the Auditors.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from this address.

By order of the Board of Directors.

G Henderson  
Secretary

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29 April 1997

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Adam Jones follows what proved to be a false trail in the mining industry

## Investors bought a gilded picture

The allegation that thousands of mineral samples were doctored to suggest the existence of an enormous gold deposit in Indonesia is just one twist in an improbable tale that has already seen the death of a geologist in mysterious circumstances. Unsurprisingly, the story has already attracted film makers.

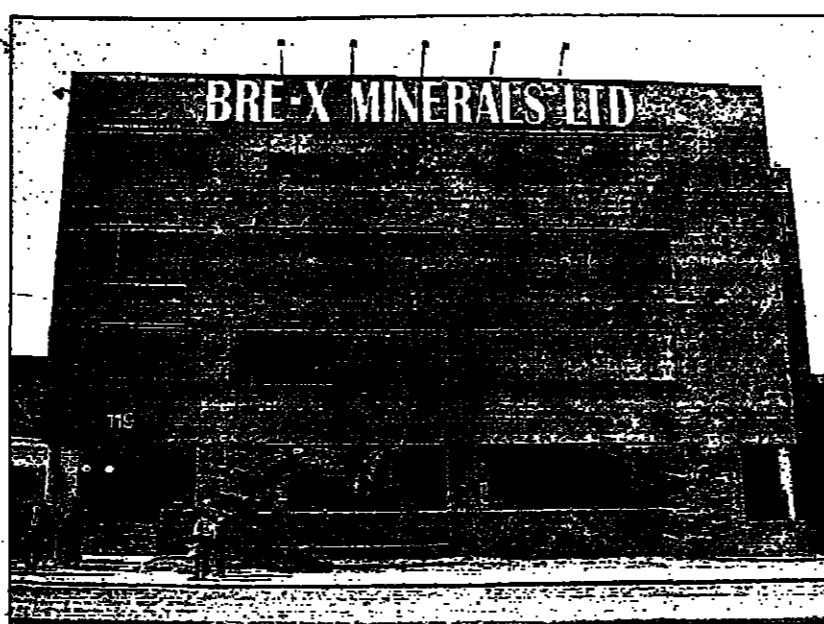
Bre-X Minerals was founded in 1988 by David Walsh, who had previously worked for a stockbroking house. In 1993, he and his wife went bankrupt after amassing credit card debts of US\$43,000. As a last-ditch venture, he raised US\$80,000 for the option to buy 15,000 hectares of land in Busang, a rain forest area on the island of Borneo.

Mr Walsh was convinced that Borneo held easily-recoverable gold deposits in its volcanic rock.

The Busang site belonged to Montague Gold, an Australian company 49 per cent owned by Waverley Mining Finance, based in Edinburgh. It later won an extra US\$6 million from Bre-X, while optimism was still high.

In October 1995, Bre-X announced that Busang could contain more than 30 million ounces of gold. This estimate was revised upwards before Bre-X transferred its listing from Alberta to the Toronto Stock Exchange in April 1996.

The gold expectations grew to 47 million ounces and the stock soared to C\$26.80 (£11.80) in September, from just a couple of dollars a year earlier. By December, the land was said to hold more than 57 million ounces of gold. But Bre-X was pressed by the Indonesians into diluting its holding by taking on a partner and giving the Government a cut, leaving it with just 45 per



Bre-X, based in Calgary, says an independent report found data had been falsified



Beckwith: in dispute with Bre-X

cent. It also faced a US\$1.5 billion lawsuit from Jusuf Merukih, an Indonesian who claimed a share of the gold. His company has a strategic alliance with Australia's Golden Valley Mines, run by Warren Beckwith.

By February 1997, Bre-X said there could be as much as 200 million ounces of gold at Busang. Such a haul could have been worth tens of billions of dollars in profit. Then

on March 19, Michael de

Guzman, a 43-year-old Filipino and Bre-X's chief geologist at the site, fell to his death from a helicopter flying over the jungle.

Rumours began circulating that de Guzman, who owned shares in Bre-X, had been murdered. The Indonesian au-

thorities suspected suicide, saying he had been diagnosed as suffering from terminal hepatitis B. His family deny this, saying he had passed a medical examination in Singapore.

A body, partially eaten by animals, was found several days later and identified as de Guzman because of the jeans it was wearing. The autopsy was delayed and the family only received the body two weeks later, fuelling further speculation.

Two days after de Guzman's death, an Indonesian newspaper reported that there was a discrepancy between Bre-X's assessment of the find and that of its new development partner, Freeport McMoRan.

Bre-X subsequently admitted that the find may have been overstated. The shares, already traumatised, were suspended.

When trading resumed, the stock lost 80 per cent, or US\$2.1 billion of its market value. Shareholders began filing class actions against the company and its officials, and Indonesia's top mining official was sacked.

To resolve the controversy from Busang was sent to Strathcona Mineral Services for testing. Its damning report was published yesterday and it concluded that the amount of tampering and falsification was "without precedent in the history of mining anywhere in the world".

The upper limit on the Lloyd's policy is £15 million.

## Insurance against sabotage

By OLIVER AUGUST

AN increase in the number of blackmailers trying to extort cash from companies by poisoning food products has spawned the first comprehensive insurance against sabotage as well as accidental contamination.

A Lloyd's policy, called Total Recall, protects companies against losses associated with food scares. It is offered by the Beazley and Cassidy Davis syndicates.

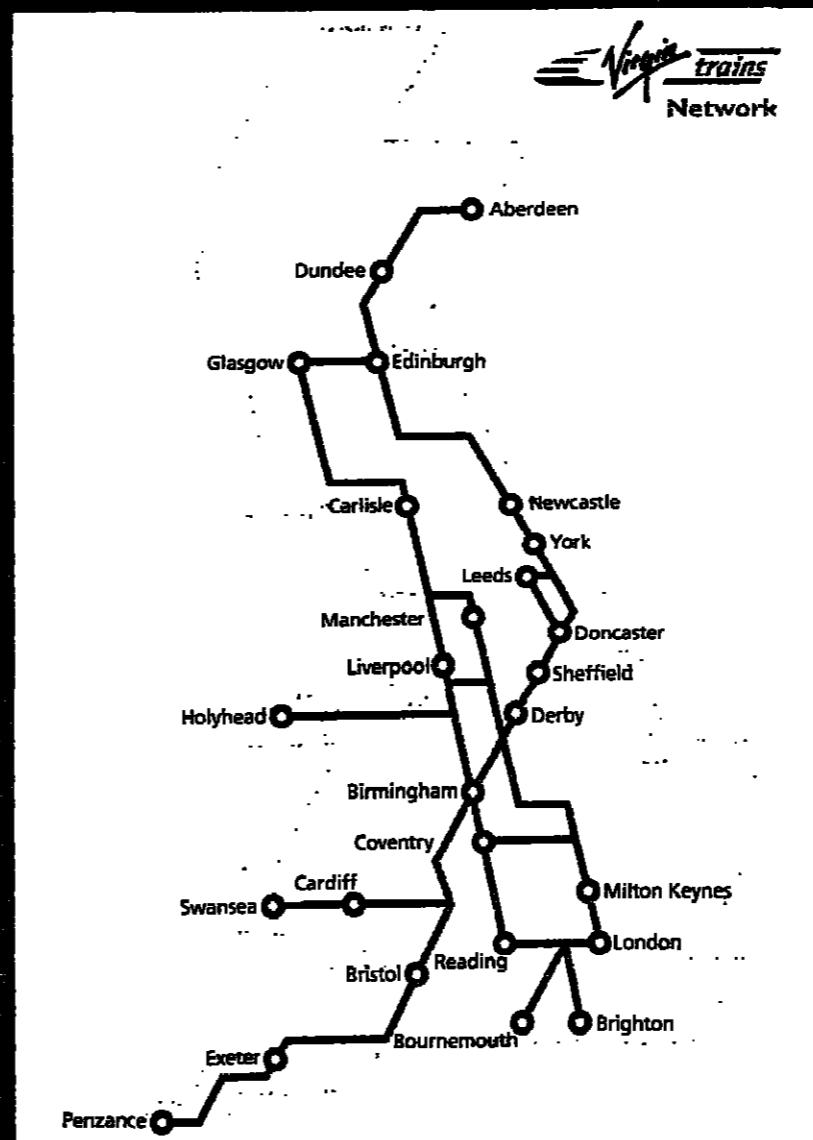
David Nicholson, of Beazley, said: "Total Recall covers not only the accidental risks which are within the control of the insured and their suppliers, but also deliberate contamination outside the insured's control by extortionists, disgruntled employees, pressure groups and others."

The policy comes too late for an Australian company that had to withdraw its biscuits in February. The withdrawal was forced by an extortionist alleging corruption among New South Wales police. The biscuits stayed off the shelves for 12 days, estimates of the cost between £7.5 million and £20 million.

The upper limit on the Lloyd's policy is £15 million.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

# TEST DRIVE A VIRGIN TRAIN.



See the Sunday Times next Sunday for details.

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# Southern to defend use of customer information

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Data Protection Registrar and Southern Electric are this week poised for a showdown over the use of customer bases.

Southern Electric, along with Centrica — the renamed British Gas supply arm — and other regional electricity companies, have been served with preliminary enforcement notices by the data watchdog. They aim to stop cross-marketing of services to lists of existing customers.

Southern Electric, the only independent regional electricity company, will try to persuade the registrar to change her mind at a meeting on Friday. If it is unsuccessful it

## TGE sets its sights on stock market

TGE, a specialist engineering group made up of six businesses bought in 1995 from Meggit, the aerospace-to-electronics company, is considering flotation after making pre-tax profits of £2.4 million on turnover of £47.2 million in its first year (Chris Ayres writes).

The company will today announce a \$15 million contract won by its Ion Track instruments, to supply explosive detection equipment to the US Federal Aviation Authority.



Elizabeth France aims to stop utilities from cross-marketing services to existing customers as competition is stepped up

## Regent Pacific sets out float details

By ADAM JONES

REGENT PACIFIC, the emerging markets investment house, announced details of its partial flotation in Hong Kong yesterday, but remained tight-lipped about whether it will use some of the proceeds to

pounce on the Hambrus banking group.

Regent's HK\$447 million (US\$5.3 million) placing and new issue values the company at HK\$2.5 billion and aims to raise US\$50 million to \$55 million. Institutions have been told that the placing has been oversubscribed. A quarter of the shares are

being offered to the public for subscription at HK\$2.62 in Hong Kong. The public offer starts today and ends on Friday.

Regent Pacific owns nearly 4 per cent of Hambrus, which had to apologise to the

Co-operative Wholesale Society last week

for its part in the abortive bid by Andrew Regan, Regent's chairman and chief executive. Jim Mellon has described Hambrus as a "fantastic break-up situation". He needs 10 per cent of the banking group to call an extraordinary meeting to put Regent's break-up plans to other shareholders. Sophia Shaw, marketing director,

said: "We have made our feelings known previously. At the moment, we don't have any further comment. We are watching the developments with interest."

The proceeds of the offering, which will

see management and staff holdings in the company cut from 41 per cent to 33 per

cent of the enlarged capital, will expand corporate finance activities and new brokerage and fund management operations in eastern Europe, as well as funding a marketing drive. Regent's post-tax profits in the year to March 31 are expected to be US\$31 million.

# BSM fails to please investors on written test

By FRASER NELSON

BSM, the motoring school, will this week come under fire from shareholders demanding to know how the company's management has failed to turn the written driving test to its advantage.

Richard Glover, who has succeeded Mr Massey, said last week that the company had not expected students to stay at home until they passed the theory exam, which has led to a 51 per cent decline in driving test applications.

Another of BSM's institutional shareholders said many in the City felt betrayed because the company billed itself as a reliable investment anchored to a steady and economically sheltered market.

BSM insists its market is bound to bounce back. But critical analysts said its plans to close 18 driving centres suggest it is preparing for a longer-term decline.

The Motor Schools Association, which represents Britain's 7,000 instructors, said that some of its members fear the test could shrink the market by up to a fifth.

Answers from page 28

## PAREU

(c) A skirt worn by men and women in Polynesia, made of a single straight piece of cloth, usually of printed cotton. So pareu-cloth, the cloth of which this and other Polynesian garments are made. The native Polynesian name "To walk in the woods and hills of Papeete was sheer pleasure, for there we wore only an airy pareu, and the temperature felt like a pleasant dream."

## PONHAUS

(c) Fig's brown or scrapple. From the German *pfanne* a frying pan. It has a rabbit. That's why "brown rabbit" is the same sort of beast as "Welsh rarebit". Originally, Ponhaus or scrapple was made from the head of the freshly killed porker, but good, fresh, lean pork of any cut may be used."

## ROSELLA

(a) A brightly coloured seed-eating Australian parrot belonging to the genus *Platycercus*. *Parrots of Australia*, 1966. "I rather feel that the Blue-cheeked is a very beautiful connecting link between Pale-headed and Northern Rosellas."

## PSIONIC

(c) (The study of) the paranormal. Psi, the 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet, the Roman letter S. Hespe. (2) paranormal phenomena or faculties collectively. Dr Lawrence, at the age of ninety, founded the Psi-omic Medical Society. This drew together homeopathy and radiaesthesia."

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CHANGING TIMES

# Not bad for a first day

cameron mckenna

# Flightpath shows Prescott way to his model railway

Labour could seal a great deal with Railtrack, says Carl Mortished

**W**hen the young Blair family closed the door to the cheering crowds in Downing Street on Friday, the warm "new Labour" glow of the smiling, new Prime Minister vanished from City dealing rooms. It was rapidly replaced by the gruff and distinctly "old Labour" face of John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and transport supremo. Dealers promptly marked Railtrack shares down 2 per cent, cutting the privatised rail network's value by £125 million.

The reaction is somewhat perverse. Publicly owned public transport is deeply embedded in the psyche of the once-socialist Labour Party. In power, however, Labour must do business with a company that took part in the destruction of one of the pillars of their old concept of society.

The temptation to tax the business, to constrain its management and to get revenge will be huge, but Labour has other priorities, chiefly an electorate desperate to see a reversal of decades of under-investment in Britain's infrastructure. If Mr Prescott the former shop steward can be persuaded to do business with the devil, then Mr Prescott the Deputy Prime Minister could cut a terrific deal with the Railtrack bosses.

Opposition to the break-up and sale of British Railways was fierce, but, in the end, backfired. Vague threats from Clare Short, then Labour's transport spokeswoman, ensured that the public offer of Railtrack shares was a damp squib. The shadow cabinet was divided over what to do about it, with Gordon Brown, as Shadow Chancellor, counselling against renationalisation. However, the drip-feed of vague threats from Ms Short was enough to frighten institutional investors. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the stockbroker, reckoned that the negative publicity had cut £500 million from the sale price.

Sure enough, in the three months after the May 1996 flotation, Railtrack shares remained in a siding. Then, on July 25, Labour sent out a message that was seized on with glee by the markets. Ms Short was sacked as Shadow Transport Secretary and Railtrack shares woke up, gaining 50 per cent over two months and reaching a peak of almost £7 in March, a rise of



The way things were: Richard Hannah, of UBS, says there was no golden age of state ownership for the railways

80 per cent since the flotation in May last year.

Investors had other reasons to look fondly at the privatised rail utility. The company had been underspending hugely on its asset maintenance programme: every year Railtrack sets aside more than £400 million to rebuild crumbling bridges and stations, but, for the two years to March 1996, the company had rolled over a provision of almost £300 million for maintenance work that had been budgeted but not spent. The markets saw the makings of a cash hoard and suspected that Railtrack, like water and electricity companies, would turn into a privatised honeypot with share buybacks and special dividends.

Railtrack's regulator finally spoke out in December and again in January, declaring the underspend "totally unacceptable", spurring a complacent Railtrack into a public relations offensive in which it declared that it would spend £1 billion on the rail network over the next ten years. Most of the investment outlined in last February's network management statement had already been spent out in the flotation prospectus of the previous year. Yet the sums are enormous, larger than any previous government's financial commitment to rail. That poses a problem for a Labour administration strapped for cash but committed to improving public transport.

Richard Hannah, transport analyst with UBS, reckons that Railtrack's commitment to spend £1.0 billion per year gives

the company a powerful card to play against a Government contemplating windfall taxes and more intense regulation. Mr Hannah said: "There was no golden age of state ownership. Successive governments have short-changed the railways. The Government should allow the private sector to do what it does well, but if shareholders think there is no adequate return to be had on that £1.0 billion, the sum will simply have to be added to the public sector borrowing requirement."

Faced with demands for huge spending increases on health and education, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will resist any capital projects from Mr Prescott's transport ministry and the new Secretary of State will have no choice but to negotiate transport improvements with the well-endowed Railtrack. Unlike its customers, the financially challenged rail franchise operators, Railtrack has a sound asset base, a balance sheet with £2.5 billion in shareholders' funds and gearing of less than 25 per cent. This gives Railtrack both a carrot and a stick. The carrot is £1.0 billion of investment, the prospect of a modernised efficient railway network that might lure drivers off the congested roads. But if Labour ignores the carrot, imposes a heavy windfall tax, and attempts to squeeze Railtrack's profits, it can wave the stick.

Shorn of its ability to offer investors growth, Railtrack would simply offer them more dividends to compensate for a weak share price. A share buy-back programme would be set in place and Railtrack would borrow heavily against its assets to pay for it. A financially more fragile rail utility would be less able to support big capital projects, would require even higher returns and new Labour's partnership with business would be derailed for years to come.

Clearly, the carrot ought to look more attractive to a Transport Secretary seeking results but faced with a pen-pushing Chancellor. Mr Hannah reckons that there is scope for the Government to do a deal with Railtrack. Huge projects such as the upgrading of the West Coast main line and the project to connect Thameslink stations north and south of the capital are under way, but Railtrack could do more, given the right incentives.

The model for this utility should be BAA, the airports group, in whose case a cosy privatised monopoly has dramatically improved Britain's airport infrastructure.

Railtrack, like BAA, owns its terminals, the mainline stations where the scope for retail development on the present dreary platforms and concourses is huge. Unfortunately, incentives to develop Railtrack's property were put in doubt by Andrew Smith, the former Shadow Transport Secretary. In March, Mr

Smith promised to put the squeeze on Railtrack's property profits. Currently, the company is allowed to make £1 billion from property up to 2001, but must hand a quarter of any surplus to train operators.

**T**he BAA analogy may prove to be attractive to a Labour Government. Railtrack's bosses are already mulling over the possibility of further rail projects that would involve the airports group — another route from Heathrow to a mainline station, a rail link from Heathrow to Gatwick and a connection from Heathrow to the main rail line to Bristol and points West. The wild card is the London Underground; Railtrack would dearly love to add this network to its portfolio, at the right price, but the noises coming from parts of the new administration are that a Tory privatisation plan will be scrapped.

However, Labour's instincts, whatever the rhetoric, are to be friendly to monopolies, and the party has done at least one U-turn on privatisation already. Tony Blair found it easy to do a pre-election deal with BT, linking schools to the information superhighway. A Labour Government that wants a better Tube for London might find a deal with Railtrack convenient, if that were to mean new investment in the Underground without a huge bill for Gordon Brown to settle, who would complain?

Smith

## Keep a close eye on the balance sheet

**Martin Weale and Garry Young give some sound advice to the Chancellor on the management of public finances**

**O**ne of the most difficult challenges that will face the new Government is how to improve the quality of public services, while devolving no more resources to them. With public borrowing in 1997-98 vastly higher than is prudent and with no mandate for significantly higher taxation, it needs to maintain the firm control over public spending that had been promised by the Conservatives. This is in order to staunch the wounds to the public finances which have been caused by the excessive borrowing of the last five years.

We argued in our recent *Fiscal Report* that the balance sheet is a key indicator of the state of the public finances and that it is more important to pay attention to this than it is to try to achieve any particular number for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement. As with families forced to sell the silver or remortgage their homes, or companies selling off profitable operations, a worsening balance sheet is a sign that the Government has been living beyond its means.

The public sector's balance sheet shows on the one side the assets owned by the Government directly and indirectly. Its assets include a range of capital goods which are made available to the public without charge. With few exceptions people do not pay when they use the roads — and no one has yet suggested coin-in-the-slot street lighting as a way of charging either for the electricity or the capital costs of the

lighting system. Hospitals and schools represent capita investment but users do not pay any charge for this. Then there are other physical assets, such as council housing, for which users are charged. The last data available, for the end of 1995, put the total value of the public sector's assets physical assets at £407 billion.

The Government's liabilities are perhaps more familiar. National Savings is a means of government borrowing as, of course, is the issue of government stock. Against these we have to offset the financial assets such as the foreign exchange reserves which the Government owns. The value of government financial liabilities, net of financial assets was £307 billion in December 1995, giving the Government net wealth of £100 billion.

A more or less neutral position would be one in which the Government's net wealth rises in line with national income. This implies, broadly speaking that the Government's contribution to welfare supplied through the assets that it owns, neither rises nor falls in importance to the rest of the economy. If government net wealth falls as a share of national

income, then taxpayers will find, one way or another that their burden is increasing.

The most obvious way in which net wealth can fall is by increased government borrowing. Future taxpayers are worse off because they have to pay higher taxes to pay the interest to the people who have lent to the Government. But wealth could be allowed to decline in a number of other ways. "Saving" money by not maintaining the capital means that future taxpayers incur costs and discomfort because roads are potholed or the Tube may break down. Saving money by replacing the public sector provision by private sector provision means that taxpayers have to pay for services which had hitherto been free.

A recent fiscal illusion which would be exposed by use of the balance sheet would have been the Private Finance Initiative. This is a scheme by which the private sector owns capital goods (like hospitals or even HM Treasury) and then leases them to the public sector. Government borrowing is reduced in the short term because the Government does not

need to borrow to pay for the cost of building a new hospital. But in the longer term, the taxpayer is worse off because leasing charges have to be paid for the use of the hospital. Indeed the taxpayer is almost certainly worse off than if the Government were to own the building because the Government is able to borrow more cheaply than the private sector. The PFI, which gives the illusion of saving money, actually increases the tax burden.

There may of course be sound economic arguments for leasing. Services in the building may be provided more cheaply and efficiently than if the whole thing were publicly owned (although why such efficiency savings should be impossible to achieve in the public sector is unclear). But a government which looked at its balance sheet would need a to reduce government borrowing to offset an increase in leasing.

The decline in the balance sheet

position since 1990 is costing the taxpayer 15p to 2p on the standard rate of income tax permanently. Had policy-makers thought in these terms, the more recent reductions in the rate of income tax might have seemed less of a good idea. The new Government should keep an eye on its balance sheet to stop this ever happening again.

**Martin Weale is director and Garry Young is a senior research fellow at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research**

Great Bank Holiday menus, classic Normandy dishes and irresistible golden-topped gratins are just some of over 80 mouth-watering recipes in our May issue.

### GOOD FOOD GUIDE

We follow Sophie Grigson's new series, *Taste of the Times*; we've the start of MasterChef 1997; and we've a guide to your favourite food programmes.

### GOOD FOOD OF THE MONTH

Part Two of our wine course has more grape varieties and how to spot faults. And we steer you through food scares and conflicting advice on children's foods.

### GOOD FOOD AND DRINK ADVICE

You'll find an 8-page guide to the best food in New York; a chance to win a dream kitchen; and more of Ainsley Harriott's collectable cook cards.

### TELEVISION CHOICE

## The trauma of upheaval

### Moving People

Channel 4, 8.00pm

John Peel keeps in the background and lets his foreground figures do the talking: the now established style for an often funny, always perceptive series on the traumas of moving house. This second lot begins with likely lad Gavin, admitting he has one day left to find a flat before his American girlfriend returns from New York. She's older and tougher than 21-year-old Gavin and when she claps eyes on the grisly flat he's found, hell hath no fury ... Annie and Mike are Lancashire line dancers who take off for rain-soaked, isolated Glenfinnan in Scotland to (hopefully) rent out B&Bs. Against the odds this seems to work. And sad, indeed tragic, is the case of the pensioner and widower Edward, whose much-loved retirement home is slipping into the sea. And the insurance won't pay ...

### The Investigator

Channel 4, 9.00pm

Even before the opening titles comes the caption: "This film was made without the co-operation of the Ministry of Defence." You can see why: although the British Army decriminalised homosexuality in 1994, gays and lesbians are still being dismissed and the numbers are rising. Britain remains the only country in the European Community to ban gay people from the Forces. This is a powerful drama-documentary made by Chris O'Dowd who directed, among much else, *Death on the Rock*. It is based on the true story of Caroline Meagher, who appears at the end to state her case but is played throughout by the excellent Helen Baxendale. Through her eyes we see how, between 1978 and 1990, the British Army persecuted and victimised lesbians in their ranks — until Caroline herself, a Staff Sergeant with an exemplary record in the Royal Military Police, was forced to leave the job she loved.

### Touching Evil

ITV, 9.00pm

DI Creagan (Robson Green) is now obsessively involved with the case of child abduction begun last week by the Serial Crime Unit. The same trademarks — a plastic daffodil and a track shoe —



Helen Baxendale investigates (C4, 9pm)

have been left where children disappeared, subsequently murdered, in Germany as well as at the sites of fresh disappearances in Britain. It seems a bit of a cheat to have a blubbering psychic sidekick (creator Paul Abbott's *Cracker* would have stooped to that) and Creagan's temper is over the top. Of course he "knows" Professor Hinde (Ian McDiarmid) is guilty but so far the evidence is circumstantial — and Hinde is just as clever at cat-and-mouse games as his persecutor. Watch how director Julian Jarrold injects an element of mysticism — even poetry — into his wonderfully angled shots. Impressive stuff, this. A new story starts next week.

### Network First: Between the Lines

ITV, 11.00pm

If we are to take seriously the evidence of forensic and handwriting experts, and eyewitnesses not previously heard at his trial, then we can only conclude that there is a very good chance indeed that Paul Malone, convicted in 1986 of several armed robberies on Merseyside and Wirral and sent down for 15 years, is innocent. And that the police involved have a grim case to answer. Malone was released in 1995 on licence and since then has turned to the Court of Appeal to clear his name. Step by step, using actors and testimony from witnesses, and Malone himself, this disturbing film builds up the case against the constabulary.

Elizabeth Cowley

### RADIO CHOICE

#### Thirty Minutes to Kill

Radio 4, 2.00pm

And if you should have 30 minutes to kill this afternoon, let me recommend a good way for you to do the deed. All you have to do is turn on your radio, tune in to Radio 4 at 2pm and, hey presto! you'll be off on a roller-coaster ride that should leave you feeling deliriously exhausted by the time 3.30 arrives. Lynne Truss, chock-a-block extraordinaire in *The Times*, has written a comedy about a barmy couple (brilliantly played by Michael Maloney and Haydn Gwynne) who are about to go on a holiday to Mongolia (his choice, not Florence hers). They know — and so do we as chaos ensues — that time's winged chariot is about to have a rather large spoke shoved into its wheels.

### RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Grainger 6.15 Newsbeat 8.30 Evening Session 8.30 Digital Update with Rachel Heywood 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00pm Celia Sawyer 4.00 Clive Mantle

### RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest 8.00 Russ Ogden 9.00 The Rock 11.00 News 9.30 If I Had a Talking Picture 12.00 Richard Allison 12.00pm Steve Merton 3.00 Alex Trebek

### RADIO 3

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, includes Racing Preview 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mer 2.00pm Rugs on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 The Tuesday Match introduced by Simon Mann. Includes one of tonight's Preview items from the BBC's *Football Saturday Night* and *Wednesday Night Football*. 8.00 News 9.00 News Extra 10.00 News Talk with Nick Kennedy 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00pm Up All Night

### TALK RADIO

6.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Wain 7.00 Paul Rose 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deasy 7.00 Mo:z's Sportszone 10.00 James White 1.00pm Ian Collins

### RADIO 4

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes *Liszt Fantasy on Two Motifs from The Marriage of Figaro* (1st Movement), *Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 1 in F Major* (2nd Movement), *Haydn: Piano Sonata in E flat, K169* (2nd Movement), *Chopin: Capriccio Italien*; *Händel: Dixit Dominus*

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mary Miller. Includes *Shostak (Overture, The Golden Spinning Wheel); Offenbach (Christophe Colombe); Act 2, opening Schuhfuß Scene*; *Scarlatti (Sonata in D, K229)*

12.00 Composer of the Week: *Sibelius*. The BBC Orchestras, BBC Philharmonic, conductor Yan Yan Liang, violinist Gidon Kremer, conductor Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano: Messiaen (*Turangala Symphony*); Offenbach (*Christophe Colombe*, Act 2, opening Schuhfuß Scene); *Scarlatti (Sonata in D, K229)*

1.00pm *Music from the BBC*, conductor Sir Neville Marriner, violinist Gidon Kremer, piano: Messiaen (*Turangala Symphony*); Offenbach (*Christophe Colombe*, Act 2, opening Schuhfuß Scene); *Scarlatti (Sonata in D, K229)*

2.00pm *Music from the BBC*, conductor Sir Neville Marriner, violinist Gidon Kremer, piano: Messiaen (*Turangala Symphony*); Offenbach (*Christophe Colombe*, Act 2, opening Schuhfuß Scene); *Scarlatti (Sonata in D, K229)*

3.00pm *Music from the BBC*, conductor Sir Neville Marriner, violinist Gidon Kremer, piano: Messiaen (*Turangala Symphony*); Offenbach (*Christophe Colombe*, Act 2, opening Schuhfuß Scene); *Scarlatti (Sonata in D, K229)*

4.00pm *Music from the BBC*, conductor Sir Neville Marriner, violinist Gidon Kremer, piano: Messiaen (<i

# Long, long trails a-winding (to nowhere)

On Sunday afternoon, my radio drama producer rang me up. "We've got a trail at 4.15," they said. "Tune in to Radio 4 at 4.15: they're trailing your play." As a proud author, of course I dropped everything. A trail? I tried to imagine it. A snip of tantalising dialogue, guaranteed to get listeners so excited about a Tuesday afternoon play that they would start contriving a sick-day at once. But ho hum, guess what, the taster for my play did not materialise. Instead, they advertised *The Heart Surgeon* on BBC1. That's just the way it goes.

"It's a judgment!" yelled Orla Brady, in a froth of guilt: "You said this wouldn't happen!" she cried in anguish. I didn't mind. This trail had been played so many times on the telly that it was by now an old chum. I was just surprised they didn't add the overwrought *Hamish Macbeth* trailer, too — what with "You never once told me

that you loved me Hamish!" being BBC1's catch-phrase for the entire weekend. In *Hamish Macbeth*, you see, Isabel was evidently freezing to death in a cave, and growing reproachful. "You never once told me that you loved me Hamish!" was a good line, and long overdue. Well said, Isabel. By the time it was actually delivered on Sunday night, however, I had not only perfected my sing-song Isabel accent ("You never once told me") but had added pathetic teeth-chattering to the effect as well.

There is a serious point here, however. The trails for *The Heart Surgeon* were intrinsic to the experience of watching it, and since they gave you the whole story in advance, they rather reduced the element of surprise. When heart surgeon Alex (Nigel Havers) launched into his fatal-attraction affair with Marcella (Orla Brady), I doubt there was anyone in the

audience who didn't know precisely where it was leading. "He's going to perform heart surgery on Marcella's husband Larry, blah blah, and he's going to die, blah blah, and then there'll be a scandal," they said.

It's arguable, of course, that most audiences for *Othello* likewise have an inkling how it will turn out, but on the other hand *Othello* is rarely shown over two consecutive nights on BBC1. At the end of Part One of *The Heart Surgeon*, Alex had only just agreed to perform the op. It had taken 75 minutes to tell half of what its audience knew already.

Luckily, *The Heart Surgeon* was made of very superior stuff. Good though the plot was, it certainly wasn't everything. The acting and characterisation from all three principals (Lorcan Cranitch was Larry) was quite superb, the pacing of John Collee's

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

intelligent script was perfectly judged, and the music by Hollywood composer Michael Kamen was worth every penny. Best of all, scenes that elsewhere might have been telegraphed in sound-bite dialogue ("As from now, Alex, you're officially on holiday!") were remarkably given sufficient room to breathe, and to seem real.

In fact, *The Heart Surgeon* somehow managed to achieve an

unusually high level of authenticity, all round. It was easy to believe, for example, that Alex, Marcella and Larry had been friends for years. Just the way Marcella said her familiar "Hello!" when arriving at Alex's house; just the way Larry and Alex played guitar together — very badly, but with ritual seriousness. But more importantly, the quite length (and very bloody) surgery scenes utterly convinced me that Nigel Havers was brilliant, super-competent man whose titanic self-belief was not only justified, but even rather laudable.

How different from Paula Milne's polemical drama *The Fragile Heart* last year (with Nigel Hawthorne), which simply demonised medical arrogance. The fatal flaw of any surgeon is likely to be his confidence in his own opinion, and so it was with Alex. But the script had the reverse effect of Paula Milne's — instead of

banging you over the head with the man's inadequacies, it let you discover for yourself how few friends he had, his need for clarity and control, his paradoxical weakness. It was a real tragedy for a man like that to lose his best friend under the knife. It didn't serve him right.

Elsewhere on telly last night it was movies, snooker, Wallace and Gromit and *Antena Turner*. Anyone who thought it was a Bank Holiday. Thank goodness, then, for such a decent bit of drama to enliven the more obvious fare. Late-night on BBC1, *Unplugged* — Oasis turned out to be a lacklustre special event not worth waiting up for, in which Noel Gallagher took centre-stage at the Festival Hall for an acoustic (and cursory) performance of the Oasis songbook. "The brains I had went to my head" sang Noel, frowning under the spotlights

beneath those enormous Thunderbird-puppet eyebrows, and expertly strumming a big guitar. What an excellent confessional line that is. And how appropriate in the circs.

For we were still in the world of overweening arrogance, alas. Where was the more famous brother, Liam? "Liam's not with us tonight, he's got a sore throat. You're stuck with the ugly four," announced the charmless Noel, matter-of-factly, before rattling unceremoniously through the repertoire on his own, without any attempt at engaging chat. Well, what a swizz. And a bit late to break the news, I'd say, at one o'clock in the morning.

No Liam? Or rather, just Liam peering grimly and inexplicably over the balcony of the gods, in a hat, with a stone-faced Patsy Kensit by his side? Well, conspicuously, there were no trails telling us that beforehand, were there?

## BBC1

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (91457)  
7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (72051)  
9.00 *Breakfast News Extra* (3364544)  
9.20 *Style Challenge* (808761)  
9.45 *Kilroy* (716709)  
10.30 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (15877)  
11.00 *News* (7704254)  
11.05 *The Great Escape* (7361254)  
11.35 *Change That* (4543588)  
12.00 *News* (7851325)  
12.05pm *Call My Bluff* (8279531)  
12.35 *Good Living* (9610631)  
1.00 *News* (7) and *weather* (82438)  
1.30 *Regional News* (9655454)  
1.40 *The Weather Show* (99123831)  
1.45 *Neighbours* (7) (4043273), (10) (6882235)

2.55 *Through the Keyhole* (5587228)  
3.20 *Private Places* (6892099) 9.30 *Mouse and Mole* (7582148) 3.35 *Playdays* (840370) 3.55 *Arthur* (8414186) 4.20 *Julia Jekyll and Harriet* (7842490) 4.25 *Pirates* (1232098) 5.00 *Newround* (7477483) 5.10 *The Lowdown* (7) (6550457)

5.35 *Neighbours* (7) (283341)  
6.00 *News* (7) and *weather* (167)  
6.30 *Regional News* (419)

7.00 *Holiday: Faster Your Seats!* Carol Smills becomes a silver service waitress on the busiest night of the year at the Glenagles Hotel; Monty Don poses as entertainment organiser at a Club Med resort in the Bahamas (7) (3254)

7.30 *EastEnders* George meets a glamorous friend from the past. Grant makes a decision about Courtney's future while the Fowlers continue to fret about wayward Martin (7) (631)

8.00 *Children's Hospital* A baby is brought in suffering from a rash which puzzles the doctors; consultant Richard Bryson carries out intricate skin-grafts on the 13-year-old burns victim first seen last week (7) (292)

8.30 *Goodnight Sweetheart* Gary and Phoebe's wedding day arrives, but will the groom make it to the church on time? (7) (6709)

9.00 *News* (7) and *weather* (6231)

9.30 *999 Special: Missing in Action* Insight into the story of a fighter pilot who hid in enemy territory for six days after being shot down over war-torn Bosnia, and the dramatic rescue attempt carried out by 61 of his colleagues. The programme features actual radio recordings and footage made at the time of the events (7) (156983)

10.25 *Match of the Day* Desmond Lynham introduces highlights of tonight's game between Liverpool and Wimbledon Plus, the pick of the action from West Ham United v Newcastle United (6162454)

11.40 *Rocky II* (1979) Sequel to the 1976 Oscar-winning drama, written, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone, which sees the underdog hero many of his sweetheart and father Rocky Jr, before stepping into the ring for another shot at Apollo Creed's heavyweight title (7) (800438)

1.35am *Weather* (3340397)

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**  
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode® numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. If you have a VideoPlus+™, VideoPlus+™ and VideoPlusCodes™, VideoPlusCodes™ and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

## BBC2

9.00am *Open University: 16th-Century Paris* (8830099) 6.50 *Keystone Hall* (7) (851908) 6.50 *Crusade House* (8100419)

7.15 See Hear: *Breakfast News* (7) (302709) 7.30 *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles* (7) (620770) 7.35 *Newsround's Rock and Roll Years* (7) (6039833) 8.35 *The Reptons* (7) (3498833)

9.00 *Daytime on Two: Study Ireland* (71235)  
9.30 *Believe It or Not* A Christian pilgrimage to Lourdes (7747898) 9.45 *Watch* (7735051)

10.00 *Teletubbies* (36781) 10.30 *Come Outside* (6925098) 10.45 *Science Zone* (4912168) 11.05 *Space Ark* (7992419)

11.15 *It's for Us* (5582631) 11.30 *Sportsbank* (898978) 11.30 *See Hear* (7) (37059)

12.30pm *Working Lunch* (57341)

1.00 *Teaching Today* (73780) 1.30 *Testament: The Bible in Animation* (7) (5612) 2.00 *Juniper: Jungle* (7) (1088780)

2.10 *Table Tennis: World Championships*: Highlights from Manchester (7588728)

3.00 *News* (7) *Regional News* and *weather* (6889525)

3.05 *The Phil Silvers Show* (7398877) 3.30 *Blockbusters* (2619761) 3.35 *News* (7) *Regional News* and *weather* (5775099)

4.00 *Blockbusters* (572148) 4.25 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (5755235) 4.55 *Esther* (1643761)

5.30 *Today's the Day* (896)

6.00 *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* Will propose that he and Lisa get married (7) (27340)

6.25 *Heartbreak High* Kat falls for an older man (7) (29794)

7.10 *The O Zone* Gary Barlow, North and South from the TV show No Sweat and the Foo Fighters (6776)

**Dame Kiri to Kanawa** (7.30pm)

**Dame Kiri to Kanawa** (7.30pm)

## HTV

6.00am *GMTV* (6917902)  
9.25 *Supermarket Sweep* (7) (6816780)  
9.55 *Regional News* (7) (3241815)

10.00 *The Time, the Place* (38315)  
10.30 *This Morning* (7) (62180185)

12.20pm *Regionals News* (7) (6547528)  
12.30 *News* (7) and *weather* (613728)

12.54 *HTV Crimestoppers* (4522232) 12.55 *Shortland Street* (7698419) 1.50 *Home and Away* (7) (7079525) 1.50 *Afternoon Live* (4026508) 2.20 *Vanessa* (7) (4021487) 2.50 *Afternoon Live* (2933457)

3.20 *News* (7) (6896815)

3.25 *Regional News* (7) (6051865)

3.30 *Wizards* (7) (6947093) 3.40 *Potamus Park* (7) (750780) 3.50 *Blimey's Bucket* (7) (7688984) 4.00 *Garfield and Friends* (7) (415 180) 4.00 *Hey Arnold!* (4372322)

4.40 *Island* (7) (9781815)

5.10 *The House* (7) (769341)

5.40 *News* (7) and *weather* (433419)

6.00 *Home and Away* (7) (200544)

6.25 *HTV Weather* (186525)

6.30 *The West Tonight* (7) (815)

7.00 *Emmerdale* Jack takes a gamble that could change his life (7) (6322)

7.30 *Family Circles: East of Tauton* Examining the generation gap between Joseph and LaPing Mo who came to Britain from Hong Kong in the 1950s and their children (159)

8.00 *The Bill* Daly and Skase observe family hostility (7) (7070)

**Roger Cook** (8.30pm)

**Roger Cook** (8.30pm)

## CENTRAL

6.00am *HTV West except:*  
12.55pm-1.25 *A Country Practice* (9688419)  
5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (7269341)  
6.25-6.30 *Central News* (563341)

7.30-8.00 *Heart of the Country* (519)  
11.40 *Highlander* (946148)

12.40pm *Collins and Maconie's Movie Club* (5965194)

1.15 Film: *Trenchcoat* (892649)

2.55 *In Focus* (3986129)

3.40 *Football Extra* (789465)

4.30 *Central Jobfinder* (97) (2593397)

5.20 *Asian Eye* (2606823)

**WESTCOUNTRY**

6.00am *HTV West except:*

12.55 *Home and Away* (8437964)

1.20-1.50 *Emmerdale* (22508780)

5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (7269341)

6.00-6.30 *Westcountry Live* (69188)

7.30-8.00 *Animal Passions* (159)

11.40 *Highlander* (946148)

**MERIDIAN**



## OWN BUSINESS 41

Success story  
built on  
scrap values

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MAY 6 1997

# BUSINESS

## TRAIN SET 46

Airports could  
be a model  
for Railtrack

## TUC mobilises pension power to influence Shell board

By CARL MORTISHED

THE TUC is urging union members who have influence over pension funds to cast their votes in the debate over the environmental and human rights policies of Shell, the multinational oil company.

The initiative by the TUC could herald a new era in shareholder activism, giving employees a powerful voice on issues of corporate responsibility, hitherto left in the discretion of fund managers.

John Monks, the General Secretary of

the TUC, has written to members of the organisation's network of pension fund trustees, asking them to ensure that action is taken over a resolution to Shell's annual general meeting demanding improved policies on the environment.

The letter, addressed to some 800 union members who are pension fund trustees, urges them to vote on the Shell resolution and not to leave the matter to pension fund managers. The letter does not tell the trustees how they should cast their vote.

A spokesperson for the TUC said:

"Most pension funds don't vote their shares — we are encouraging trustees to vote their shares and to ensure that these matters are raised at trustee board meetings."

The TUC has shareholder guidelines that contain policies on corporate responsibility. When the Shell resolution came up, the organisation considered that the issues fell within the guidelines and the letter was sent just after Easter.

Lobbying from both Shell and environmental groups is intensifying ahead of the

May 14 annual general meeting. A small number of large insurance companies are considering a positive response to the resolution.

Representatives of some 20 institutions will today attend a meeting organised by Pirc, the shareholder ethics consultancy, at which environmental groups, including Friends of the Earth and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), will back the resolution. Amnesty UK is also supporting the motion, with a call from Sir Geoffrey Chandler, a former

Shell executive and an Amnesty UK board member, for "social auditing" of Shell's performance. The WWF has written to Sir Peter Davis, head of the Prudential, the largest shareholder in Shell, arguing that the insurance company should back the resolution. The WWF is believed to have been assisting Shell in assessing the environmental impact of major oil projects being undertaken by the company.

The resolution, which calls for improved environmental policies, more

effective monitoring and an independent audit of Shell's performance, is not particularly controversial in its demands. However, strong opposition from the oil company has galvanised environmental groups into a campaign.

Shell, which today publishes its first internal group environmental report, claims that the demands in the resolution have already been met by the company. Last month Shell published a revised set of business principles, including express support for human rights.

## Busang called world's worst mining fraud

By ADAM JONES

THE Indonesian gold discovery announced by Canada's Bre-X Minerals, once thought to be among the world's richest finds, was based on data falsified on an "unprecedented" scale, according to investigators.

Strathcona Mineral Services, a Canadian consultant brought in to resolve a dispute over the size of the deposit at Busang, on the island of Borneo, said thousands of mineral samples had been tampered with.

In a scathing report, it said it found no evidence of viable gold deposits in Busang's southeast zone, contrary to Bre-X's claims. It was unlikely that gold would ever be found in that sector. The report states: "The magnitude of the tampering with core samples that we believe has occurred and resulting falsification of assay values at Busang is of a scale and over a period of time and with a precision that, to our knowledge, is without precedent in the history of mining."

Strathcona said the gold recovered in samples submitted by Bre-X did not come from the southeast zone of the Busang property, as claimed.

John Felderhof, Bre-X's head of exploration, had claimed the site could contain

as much as 200 million ounces of gold. This could have yielded billions of pounds in profit.

In a fax sent from the Cayman Islands yesterday, Mr Felderhof said he was not involved in a fraud. He said he was "shocked and dismayed" by the report. He added: "I believe that eventually, our work

is Gilded picture..... 43

and our deposit in Busang will be confirmed." In a written statement, David Walsh, chairman and chief executive of Bre-X, said: "We share the shock and dismay of our shareholders and others that the gold we thought we had at Busang now appears not to be

there." The company said it had retained legal, accounting and investigative personnel, including Price Waterhouse, to find out how the falsified data was generated.

Strathcona was brought in to assess the Busang site after Bre-X admitted in March that it may have overstated its claim. On March 19, Michael de Guzman, a 43-year-old Filipino who was the company's chief geologist at Busang, fell from a helicopter as it flew over the jungle.

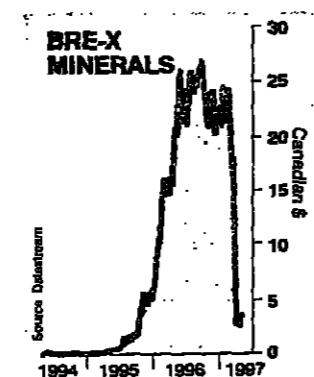
Strathcona's report, and other due diligence work, prompted Bre-X partners to pull out yesterday, including Indonesia's Nusamba Group, owner of a 25 per cent stake in the project. Nusamba is 80 per cent owned by three charities headed by President Suharto.

Freepart McMoran, which has a 15 per cent stake in Busang, is also withdrawing.

Bre-X, which has a 45 per cent stake in Busang, started exploring the site in 1993. Its shares, listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, soared from a couple of Canadian dollars to C\$26.80 (£11.80), even after a ten-for-one stock split.

Rising doubts about the value of the find wiped billions of dollars off the market value in the past six weeks and the shares stood at C\$3.23 before being suspended yesterday.

Canada's top securities regulator is investigating Bre-X for possible violations of insider dealing laws.



Walsh: shocked and dismayed



Investigators found no evidence of viable gold deposits at the Busang mine



Mystery surrounds the death of Michael de Guzman, Bre-X's chief geologist, who was buried by relatives last month

## Telegraph lifts cover price

By OLIVER AUGUST

HOLLINGER International, owner of the "Telegraph Group", has increased *The Sunday Telegraph's* cover price by 10p to 80p in a move to reverse its disastrous recent profits performance.

If the price rise was followed by a 5p increase at the daily sister paper, Hollinger profits

would be back at the £20 million mark, where they stood before the Telegraph papers joined the newspaper price war in 1994.

Two weeks ago, Hollinger reported that operating income had fallen from £16.5 million in 1995 to £1 million in 1996. The decline is the result of an

aggressive seven-day subscription policy, which offers the Telegraph at £1 instead of £3.65 paid at news-stands.

While the scheme has attracted some new readers, it has done so at a heavy loss to revenue from existing readers, many of whom took advantage of the new offer.

Assuming that present circulation levels remain unchanged, *The Sunday Telegraph's* increase will generate about £4.5 million. A 5p increase at *The Daily Telegraph* would boost earnings by about £1.5 million. The company was not available for comment yesterday.

## Firms face 'flood' of EU labour legislation

By GRAHAM SEARLE

FINANCIAL EDITOR

A FLOOD of costly and intrusive new workplace laws is likely to be poured into the European social chapter once Britain has joined the other 14 signatories, Graham Searle, Conservative, economic spokesman in the European Parliament, claimed yesterday. Medium-sized businesses would be worst hit, he said.

So far, the chapter has been used only for rules obliging multinationals with more than 1,000 employees to have works councils and to ensure unpaid parental leave. However, six new pieces of legislation will work their way through the Brussels pipeline in the coming year, he said.

The most immediate are:

- Compulsory works councils for domestic companies with more than 50 employees
- A shift in the burden of proof in many sex discrimination cases

Under consideration but less certain are:

- Reviving plans for works boards of directors
- A directive meeting German demands for equal treatment for workers from other countries to stop migrants workers undercutting locals
- A possible clause enforcing union representation in all public works contracts

Legal instruments to promote collective bargaining

Those friendlier towards the social chapter argue that some of the latter proposals are unlikely to happen soon, if at all. However, they add, British firms face complex EU sexual harassment regulation and a directive to give part-time workers fully equal contract rights.

## Reed poised for Microsoft link

By OLIVER AUGUST

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch media group, will today announce a new alliance, believed to be with Microsoft, the American software house, aimed at offering the content of Reed's scientific journals on an Internet web site.

The deal is the latest development in Reed's restructuring programme. The group has shed its newspaper and book divisions over the past two years. It has simultaneously invested heavily in professional and scientific titles available on-line.

The group's move towards electronic publishing comes in response to the growth of academic publications on the Internet. Experts expect Reed's Internet presence to be fruitful because of the weight that the

group's name carries in academic circles.

At the announcement of the full-year results in March, the board acknowledged that further acquisitions in scientific publishing could fall foul of competition authorities.

Microsoft is a late entrant to the Internet market, which had for years been dominated by entrepreneurs and the academics to whom Reed is trying to sell its journals. However, Microsoft's technological capability and its market leadership in the software sector would ensure a high degree of access. Microsoft recently struck a deal with Telerate, the electronic financial news division of Dow Jones, the owner of *The Wall Street Journal*.

Paul Symons, of CrestCo, the system operator, said the first wave of several thousand extra deals went smoothly, with a normal 80 to 82 per cent of trades settled on the intended date. Three times as many A&L trades are today due to be settled, still way below the April peak of transactions.

## New wave of deals for Crest

By ADAM JONES

CONSUMERS are paying the price for electrical goods manufacturers' ability to exert a strong influence on the price of electrical goods. The report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on price fixing and the supply of electrical goods came as no surprise to Verdict, the consultancy, says in its report on electrical retailers that the price uniformity in the £14.3 billion market reduces choice for consumers.

The report also suggests that as a result of a recent increase in insurance premium tax, electrical goods retailers will be forced to raise their prices by between 1 and 2 per cent to protect margins and profits. The market is awaiting a

report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on price fixing and the supply of electrical goods.

The suppliers have held such sway over the market partly because of the way it is divided up among retailers, the report says. Dixons accounts for nearly 19 per cent of all consumer spending on audio-visual goods, while Comet accounts for 6.2 per cent. With relatively weak competition, "it has been unnecessary to reduce margins and open up a price war". Verdict says even established retailers would be unable to obtain supplies for low-cost outlets at present.

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3 Object of irrational devotion (6)  
8 First man (4)  
9 Water-carrier sign: the New Age (8)  
10 Punishment: type of kick (7)  
11 Fast cold (5)  
13 (Given) impatient hearing (5,6)  
16 Townling for baby (5)  
18 Warship: type of bird (7)  
21 Concealed (motives) (8)  
22 Gold veneer; a pig (4)  
23 Secret (spiritual) knowledge (6)  
24 Regular earnings (6)  
  
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